# Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

12

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

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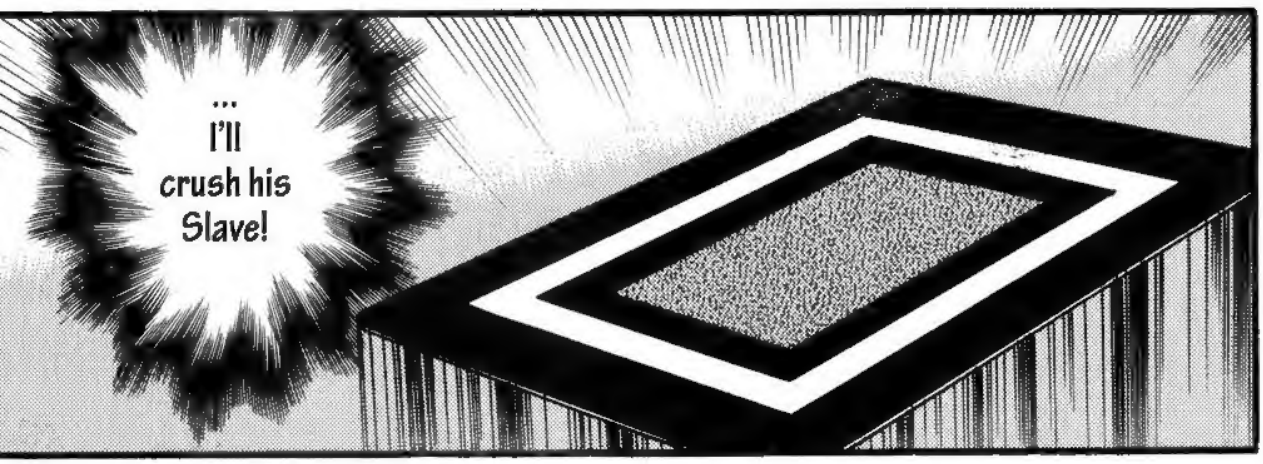
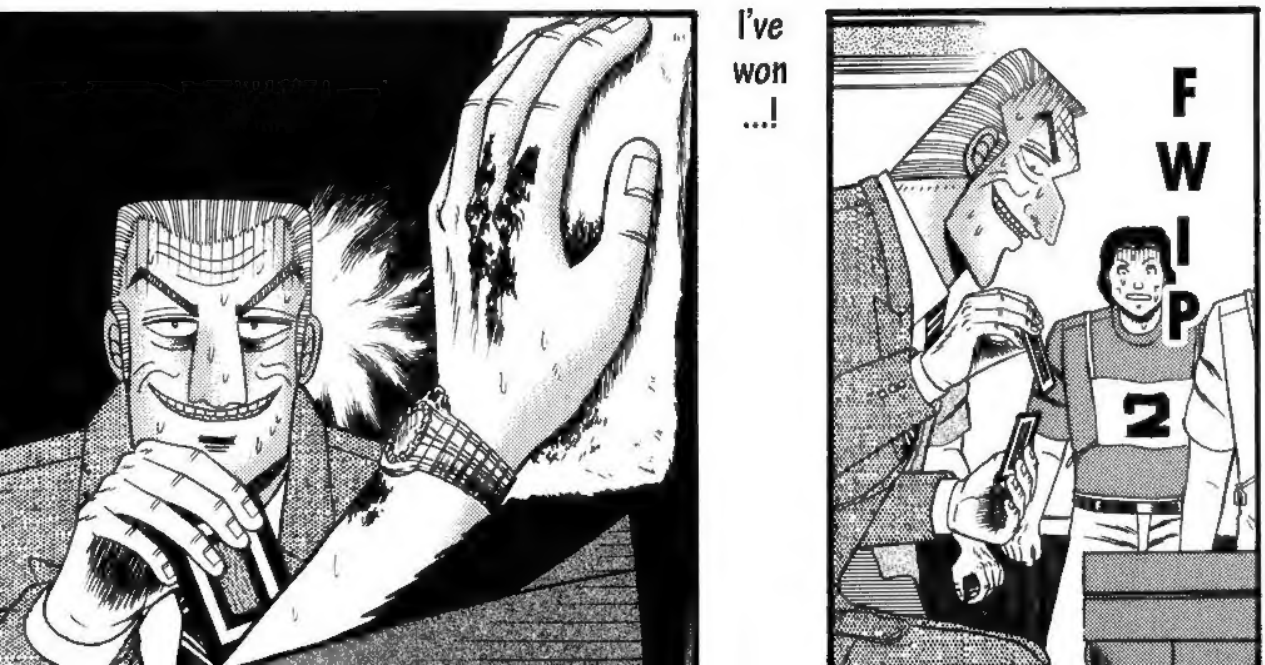
# Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

It's Slave ...!
I've won ...!
Muhahaha ...!
Muha ...!

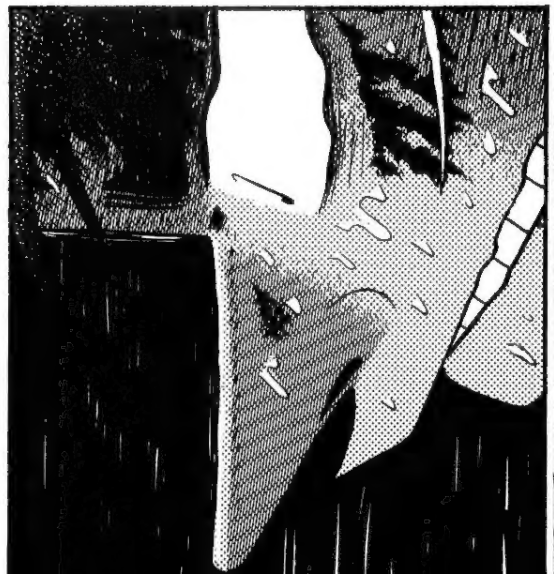
# Chapter 131: Interlude

If I throw Citizen now ...
CITIZEN


... I'll crush his Slave!


I've won ...!
FWIP
2

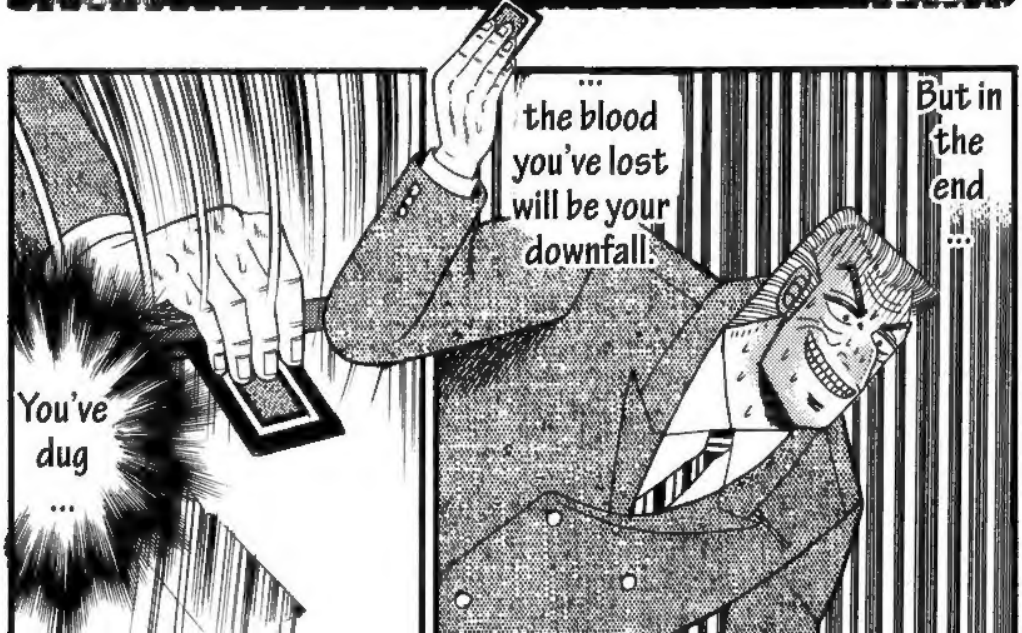
Give up ...



You're dead ...!

Very ruthless ...
Cutting your ear off was a bold move ...

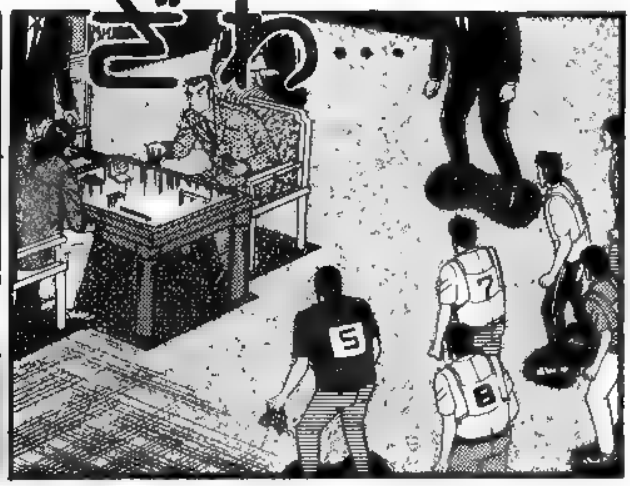
Dead ...!

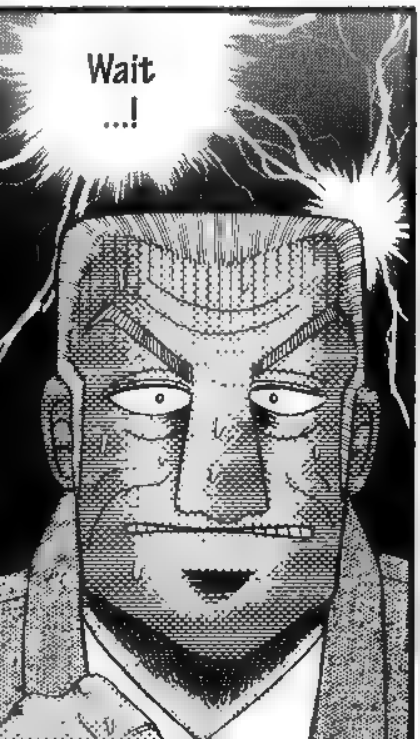

You've dug ...
... the blood you've lost will be your downfall.
But in the end ...

...
your
own
grave!
Ngh
...!

St-
Stop
...!
FREEZE

ざわ..
ざわ..
?……
?……


ざわ…

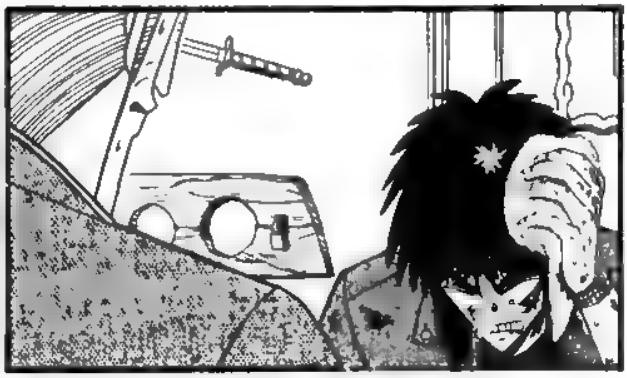

Wait
...!

……
ざわ..
10
1

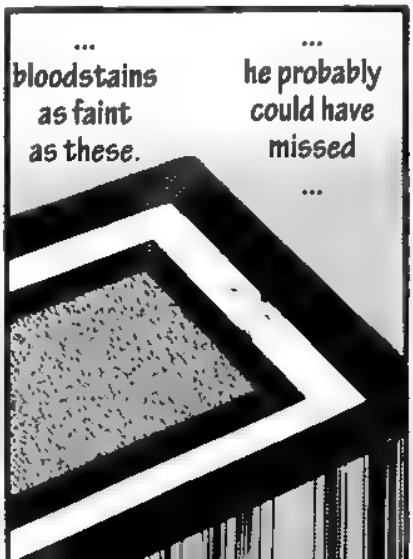
Could he have not noticed ...?

Could he have not noticed them ...?

Of course ...



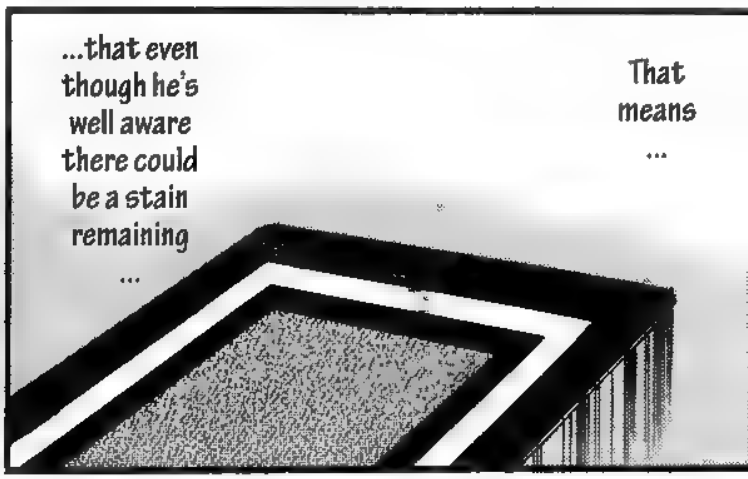
However ...


... bloodstains as faint as these.
... he probably could have missed ...

If he hadn't noticed the original bleeding ...

...
wiped them off with his own hands.
...
and then
...
...
who bled all over the cards
...
He's the one
...

...
that he just overlooked that fact!?
...I'm supposed to believe


...that even though he's well aware there could be a stain remaining
...
That means
...

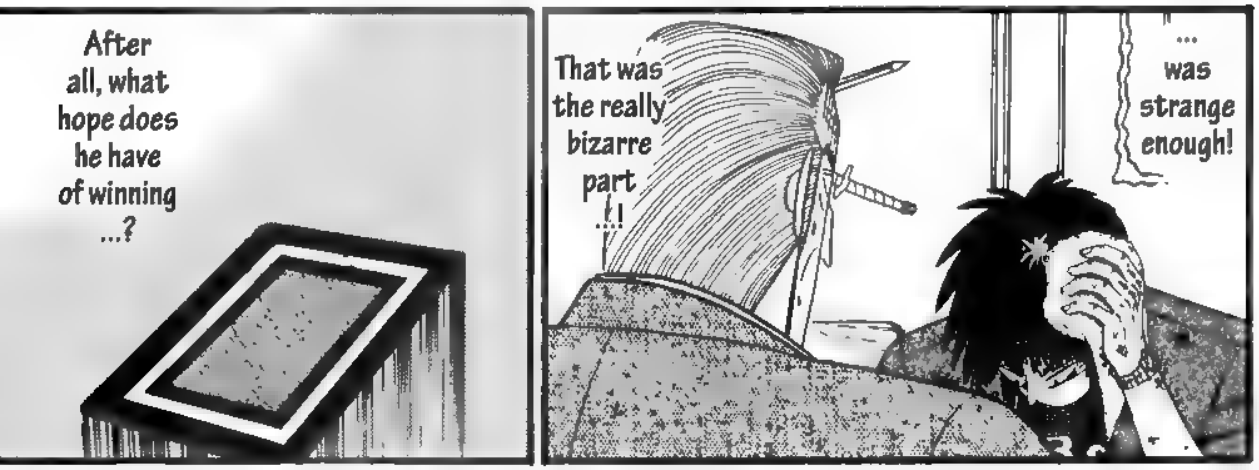
His life ...
Anything else is unthinkable ...

If he loses he's dead ...!
... is on the line here.

He absolutely must have ...!
He must have noticed ...!
It's impossible ...!

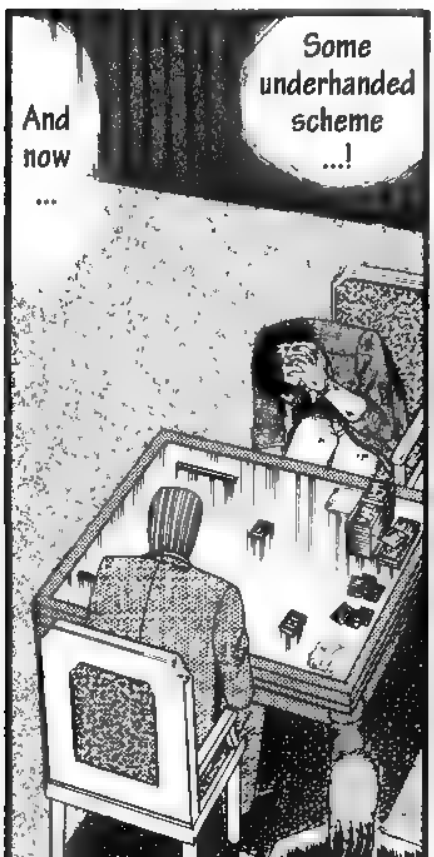
...
at
the very
start.
...he must
have checked
for stains
remaining
...
And
if it's not
a game
...
This
isn't
a game
...!
There's
no way
he'd make
a mistake
like this
...!
He should
have been
absolutely
meticulous
...!
Not a
chance
...!
...
is too
obvious!
...
when
I follow and
would have
a chance to
see them
...
...
on the
second
and
fourth
tricks
...
...
the fact
that he only
played his
bloody cards
...
In that
light
...

10 ... in the 12th match ...
11
12
X
O
1
18
18
Choosing to bet 18mm ...
In fact ...


After all, what hope does he have of winning ...?
That was the really bizarre part ...!
... was strange enough!

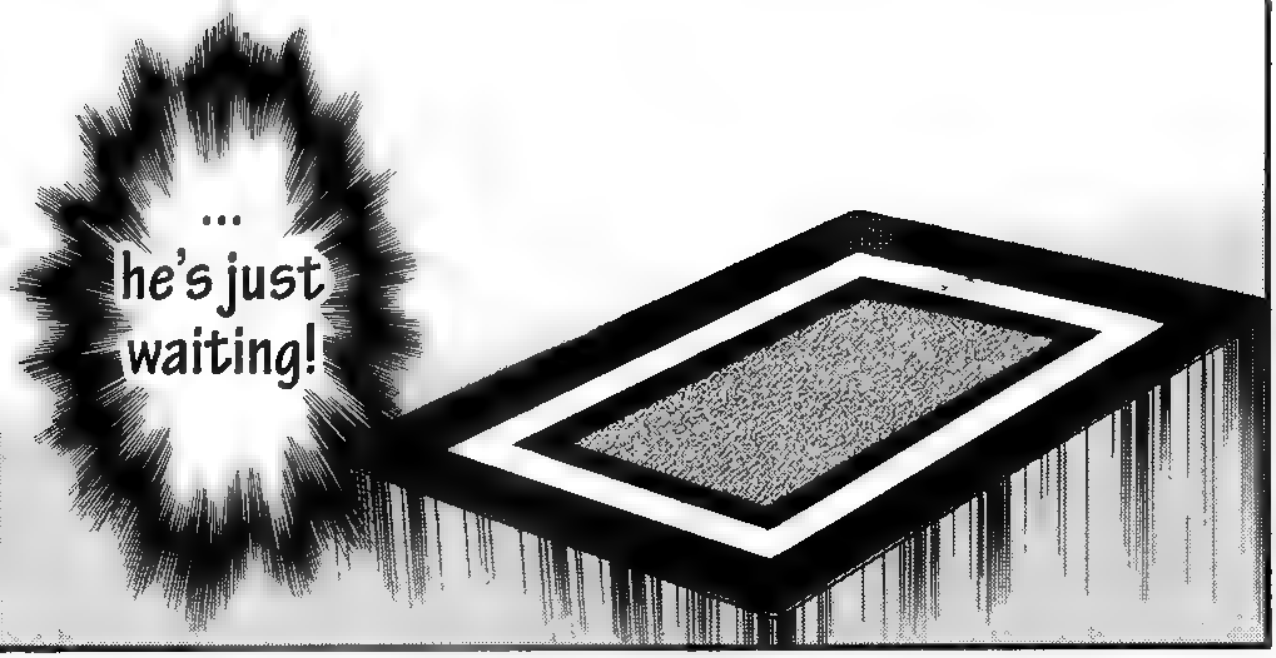
That clever boy ...!
... is just crazy!
Betting 18mm as the Slave ...
10
2

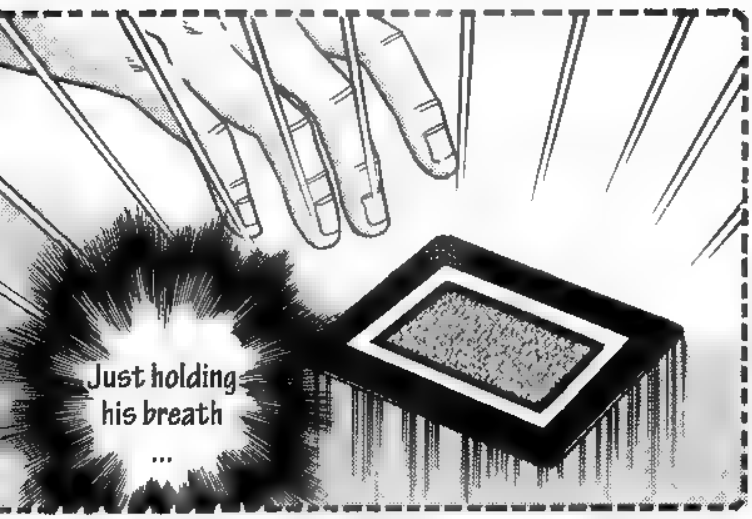
He's poisoned the match ...!


And now ...
Some underhanded scheme ...!

... meant to bamboozle me ...
He's put some plan into motion ...

... he's been setting a trap!
There's no question about it ...



...
and waiting to strike
...

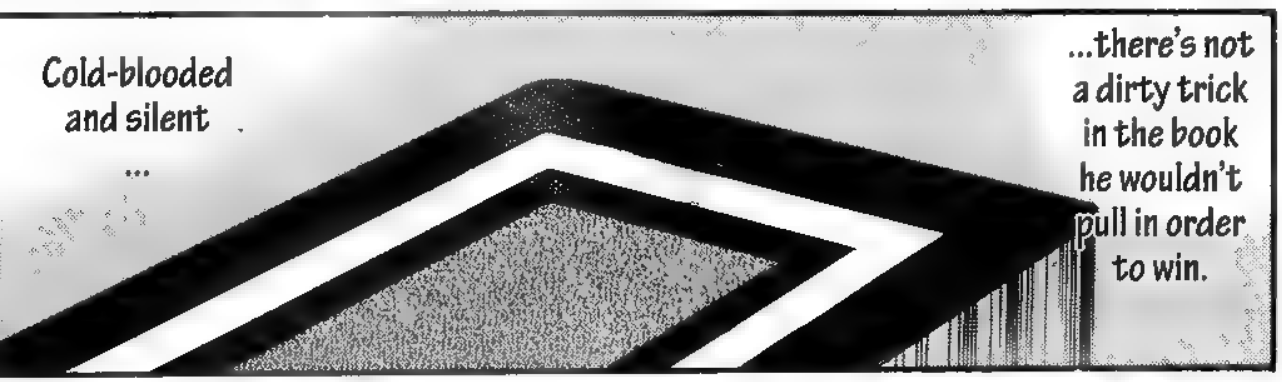
...
like a
snake!

End of Chapter 131

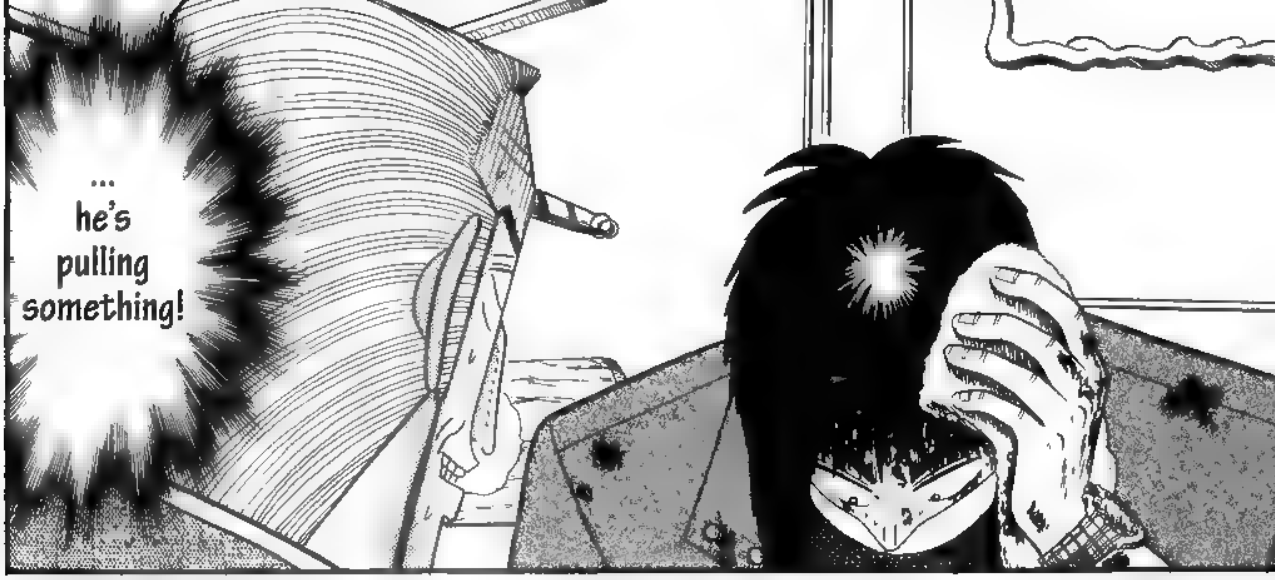
He's a snake ...!
A serpent ...!
10
Much more cunning than he seems ...

# Chapter 132: Evasion

A snake in the grass...!



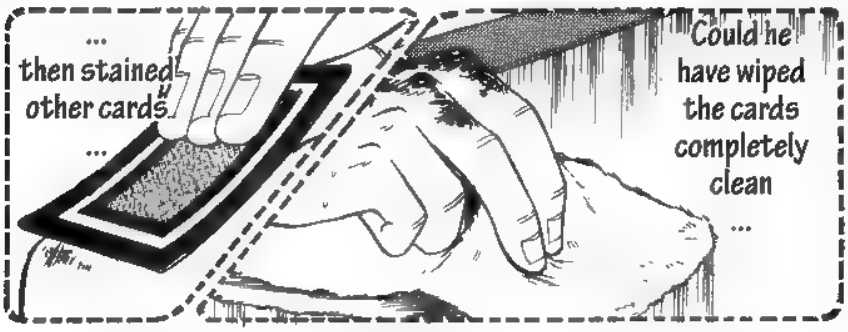
It's 99% certain
...


...
he's pulling something!

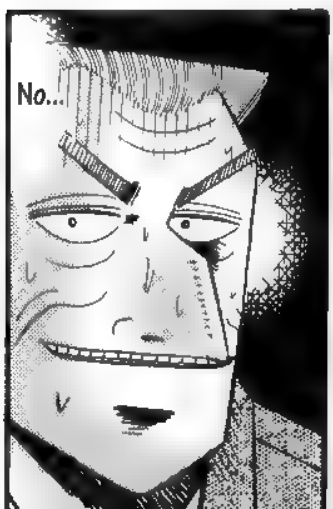
But what's his plan ...?

...
it was a strategy!
The blood was no accident
...

In other words ...

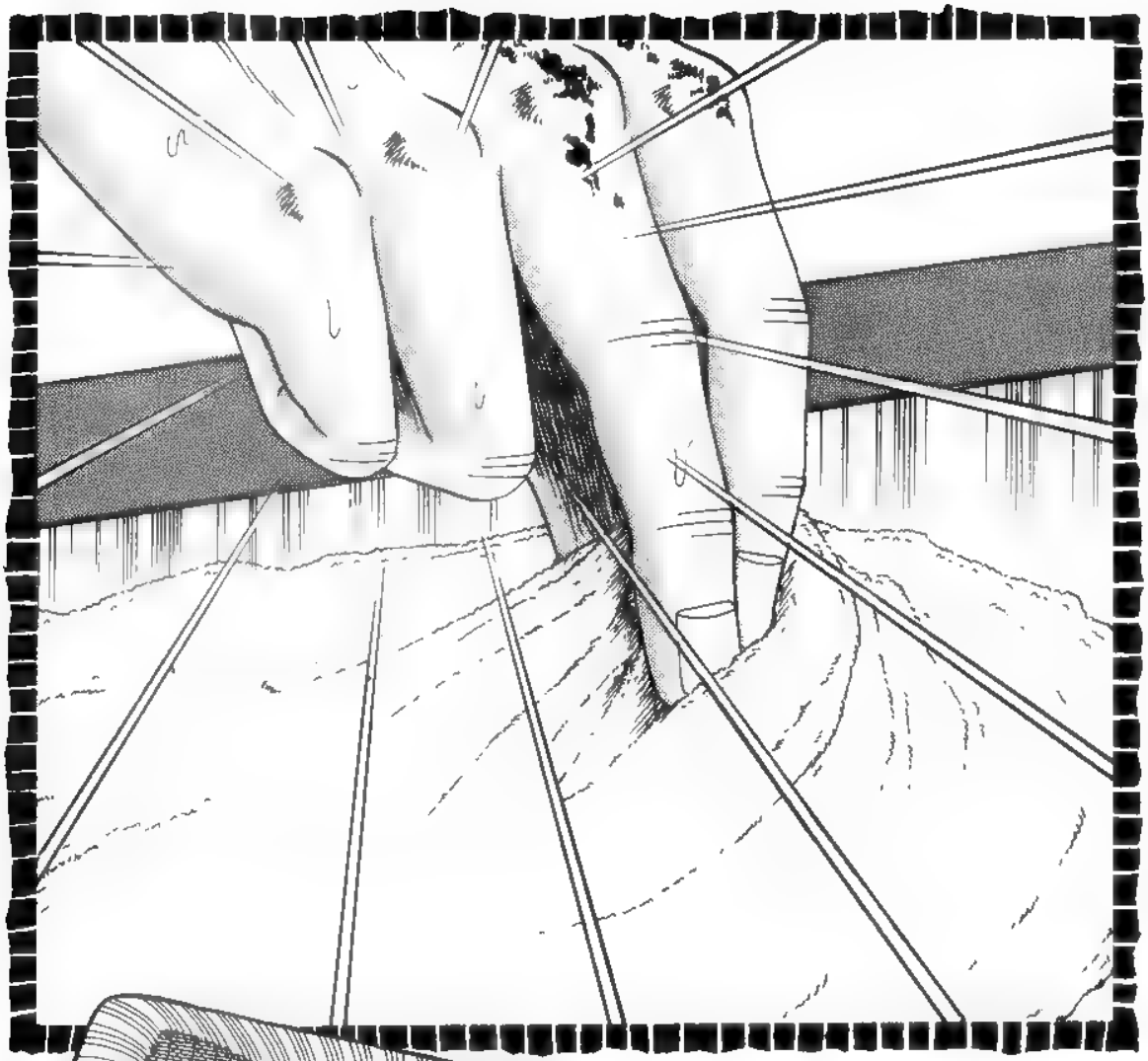

...
then stained other cards
...
Could he have wiped the cards completely clean
...

...
have just been a cover?
Could all that blood
...


No...

... in secret!?

...
using only one hand
...
If Kaiji tried something like that
...
It was wiped down but a stain was left behind afterwards.
The card wasn't merely bloody...
I never would have missed that ...!
...
since he's been bleeding
...
But I haven't taken my eyes off him
...
...
it would have been clear as day that he was up to something.
No two questions about it
!
...
are clearly left over
...
...the bloodstains
...
...
from when he bled on them before!
...that whatever his scam is
...
That means
...



Ahh
...!

The shape of his fingers back then ...!
Ahhh ...!
That's it ...!
Ahh ...!

# He Switched the cards...!

That means ...
The bleeding wasn't until afterwards ...!
... which got bloody in the end ...
... it wasn't Citizen and Slave ...
The Slave was in his hand ...!
It was Citizen and Citizen ...!

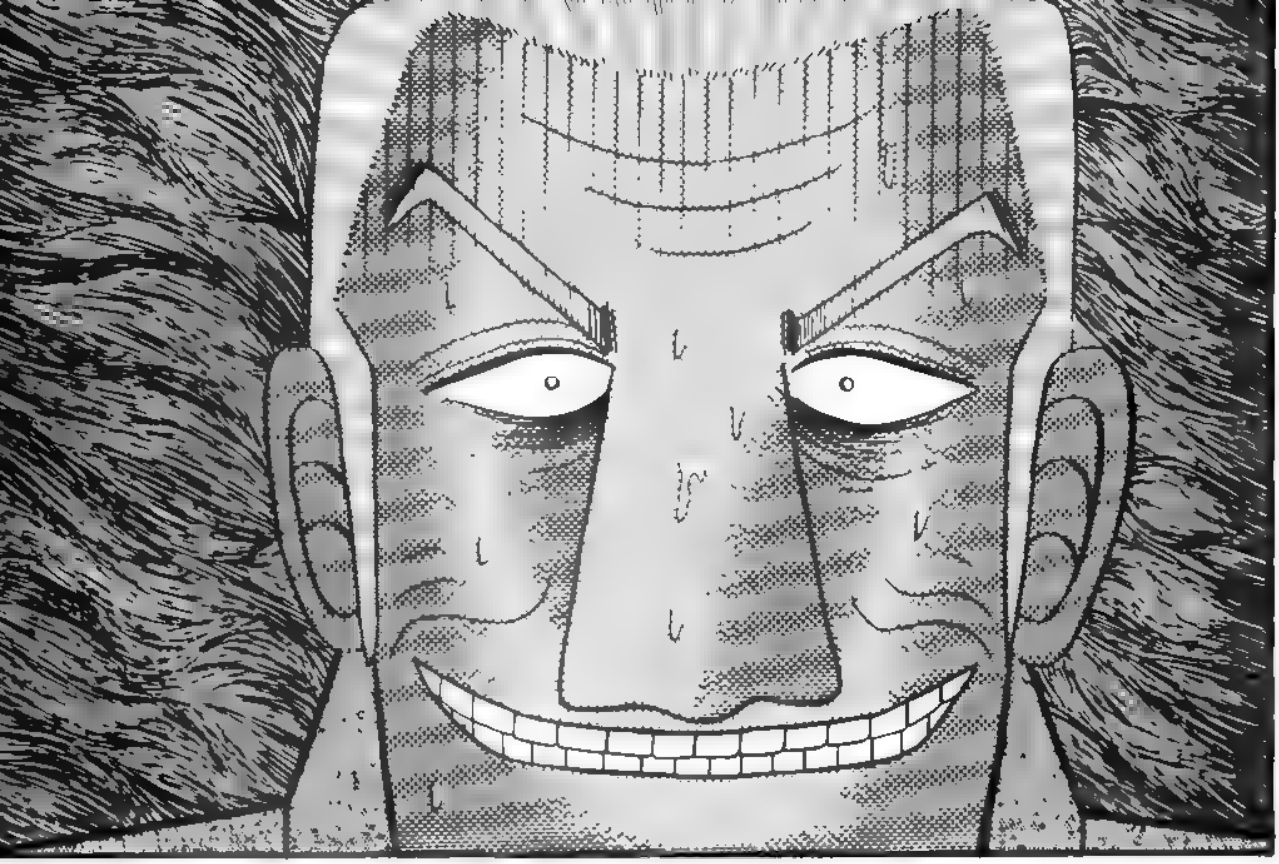
Pulling off a shameless trick ...

Very clever of him ...

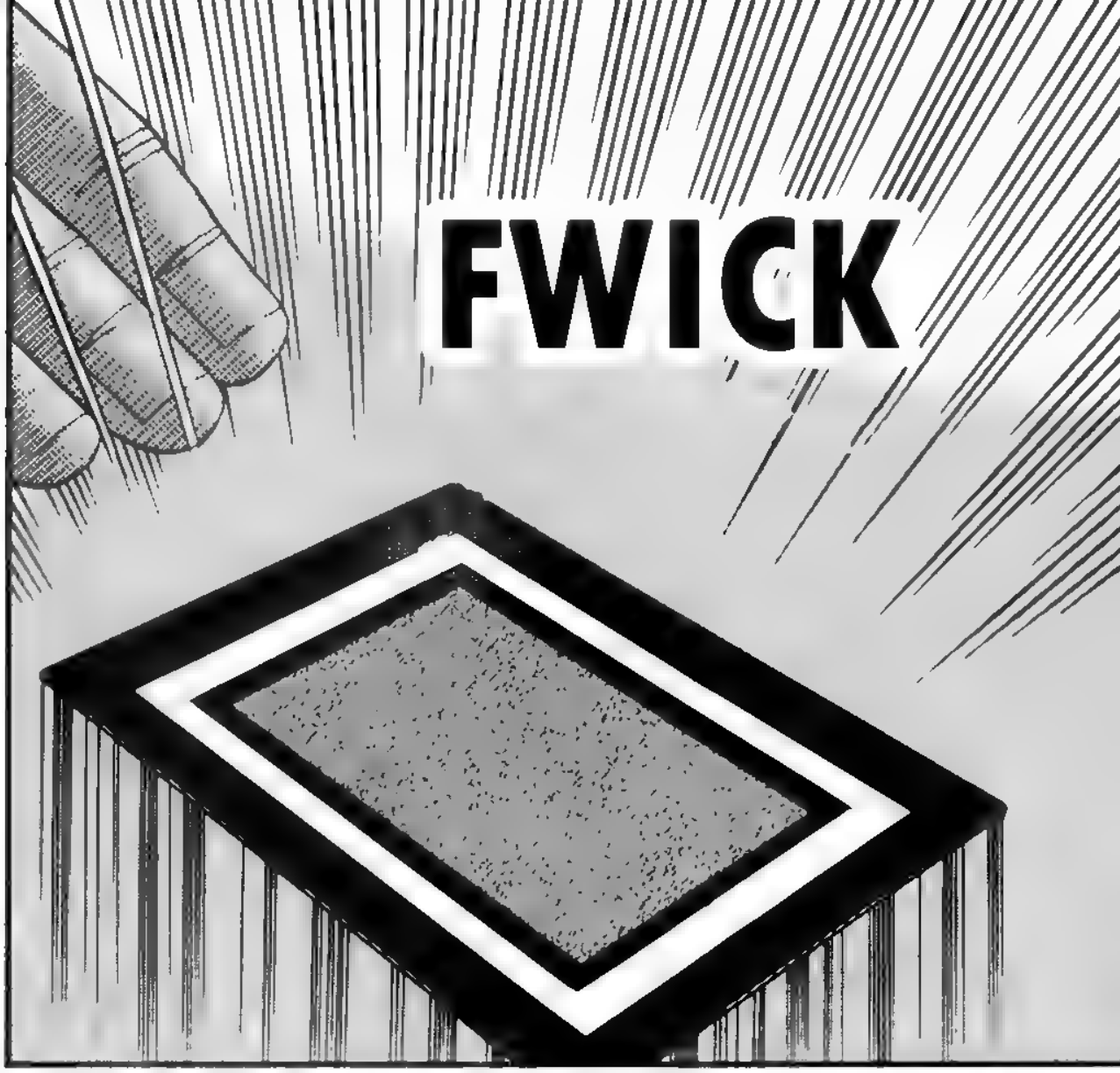
That snake ...!

... at a time like this!

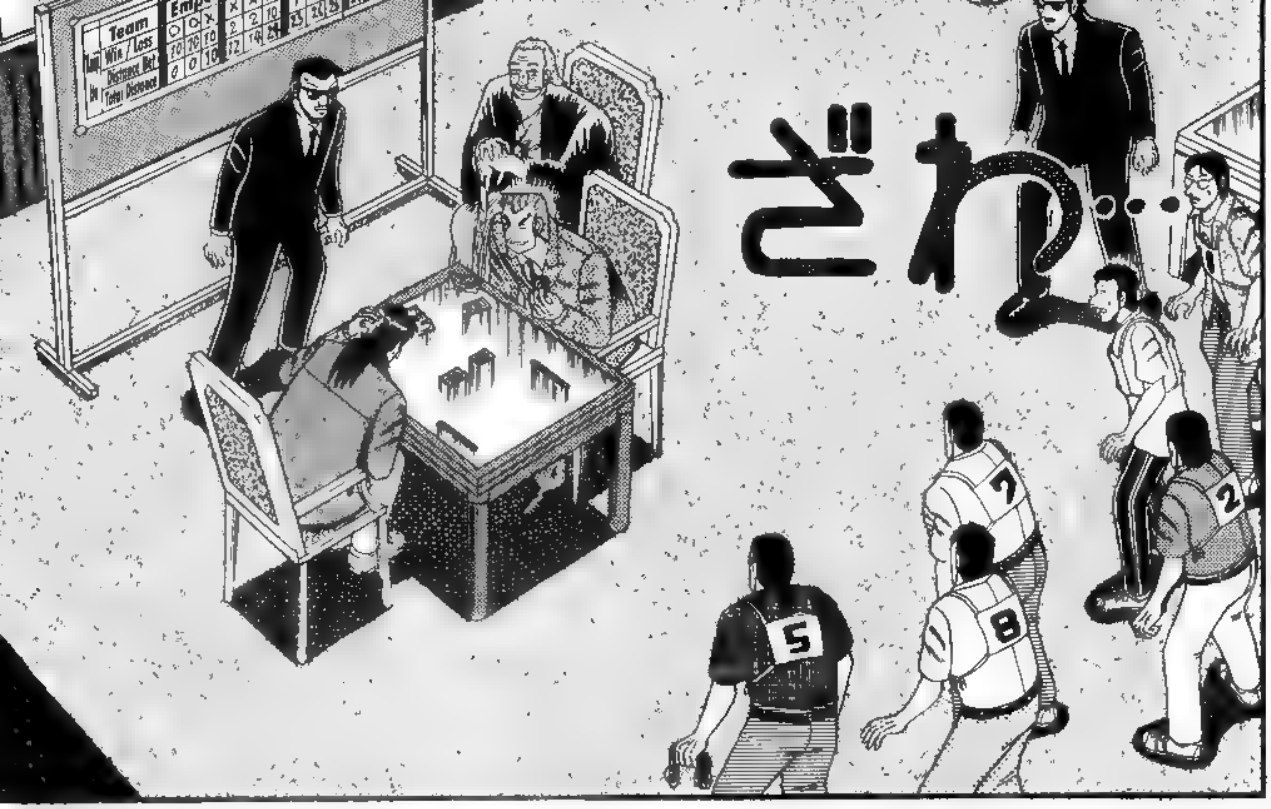
... like that ...



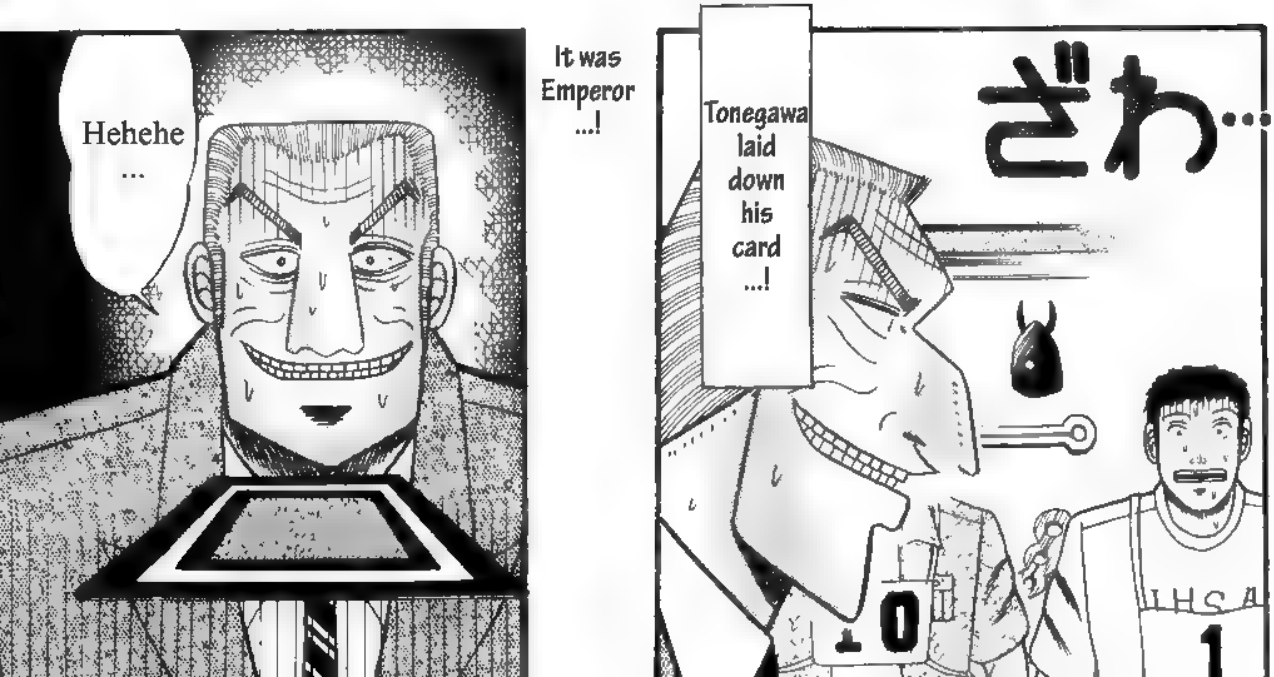
... you still got a lot to learn!


FWICK

Time to die ...!
2
5


ざわ…

ざわ… ざわ…


ざわ…
Tonegawa laid down his card …!
It was Emperor …!
Hehehe …

... but the poison you slipped into my cup has leaked back out!

I haven't drunk it ...!
I've evaded your poison ...!

This is the end ...!
... you snake!
Now die ...

Prepare for the final blow...!

FWICK
EMPEROR

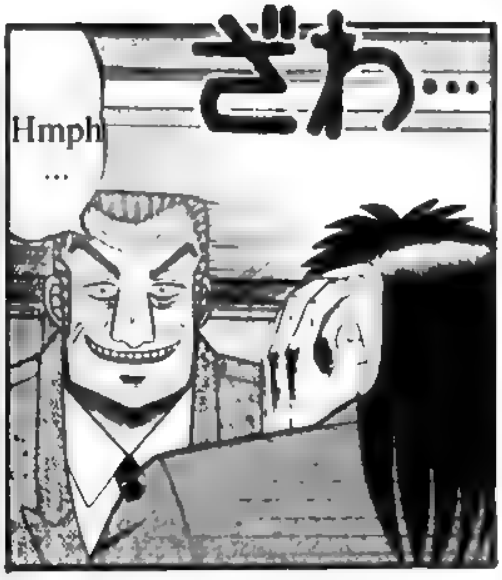
End of Chapter 132

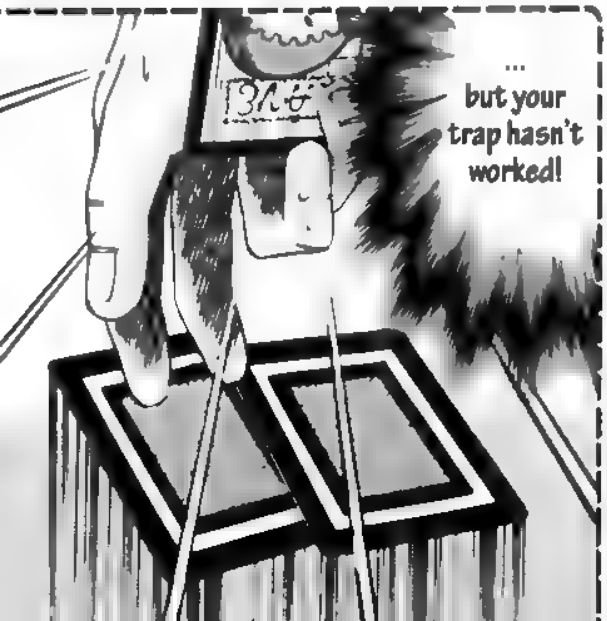
Hehehehehe
...

# Chapter 133: Annihilation

ざわ…
ざわ…

You're dead now ...!

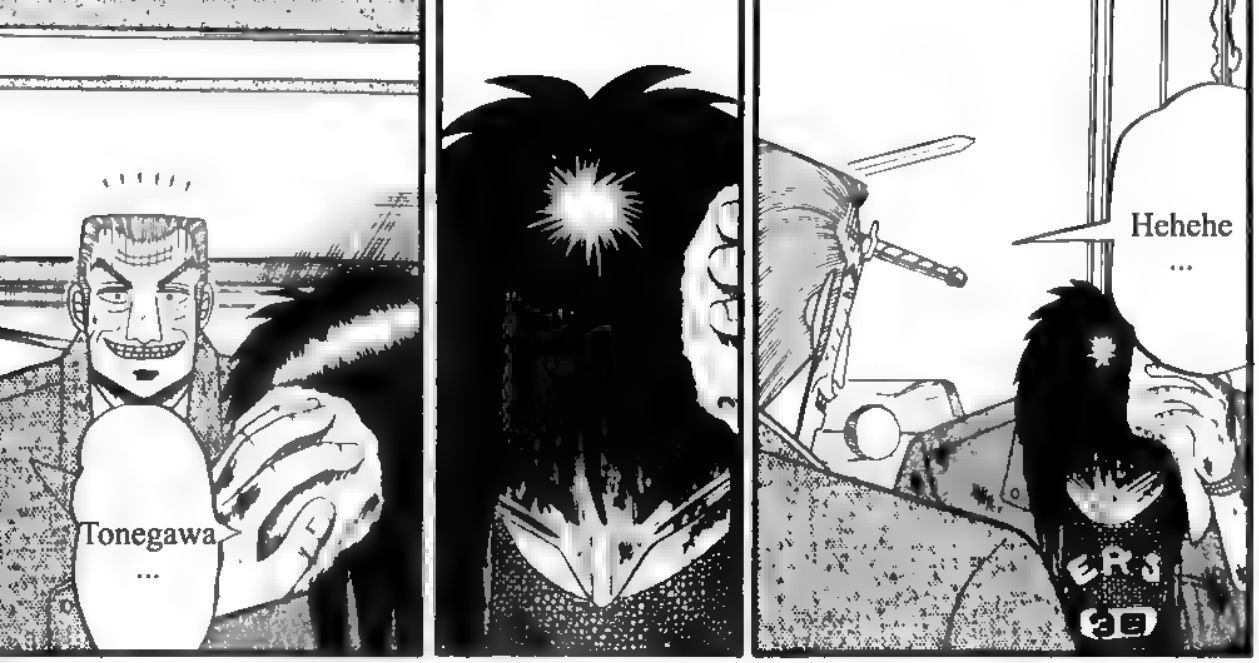

ざわ…
Hmph ...

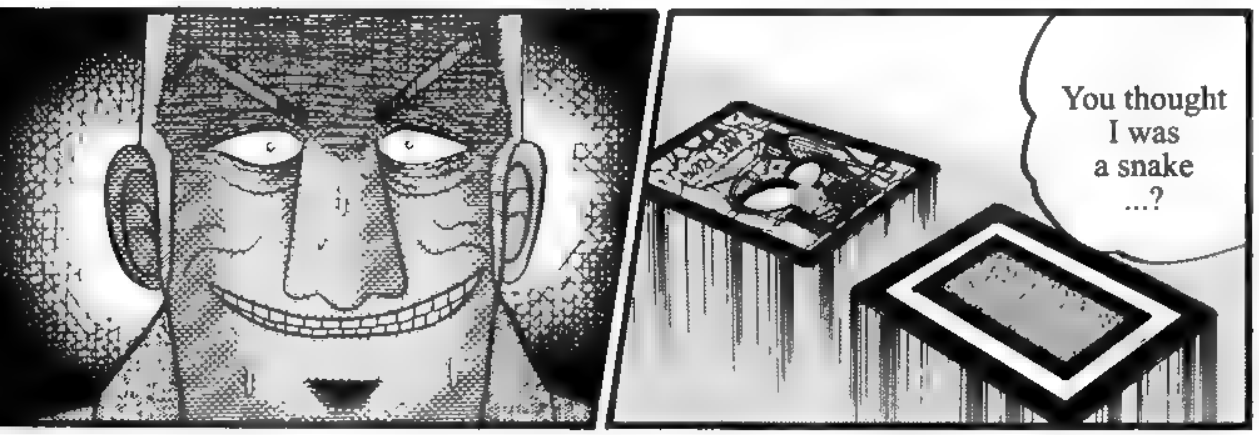

... but your trap hasn't worked!

You tried to switch cards on me ...

I've killed you ...!

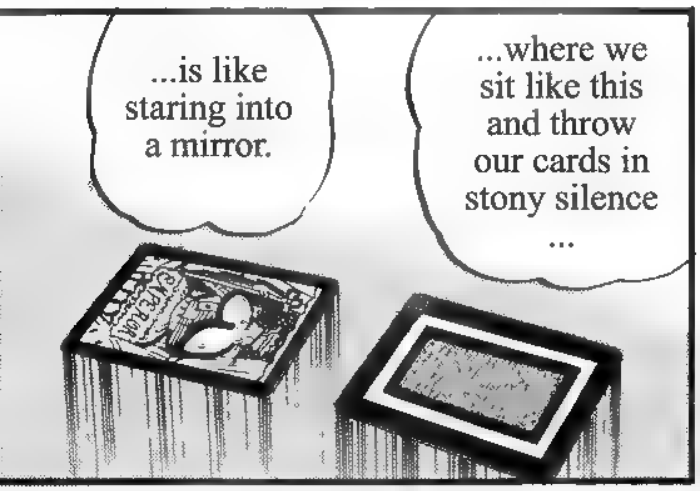
Hehehe ...
Hehe ...
Using the Emperor ...!


Tonegawa
...
Hehehe
...


You thought I was a snake ...?

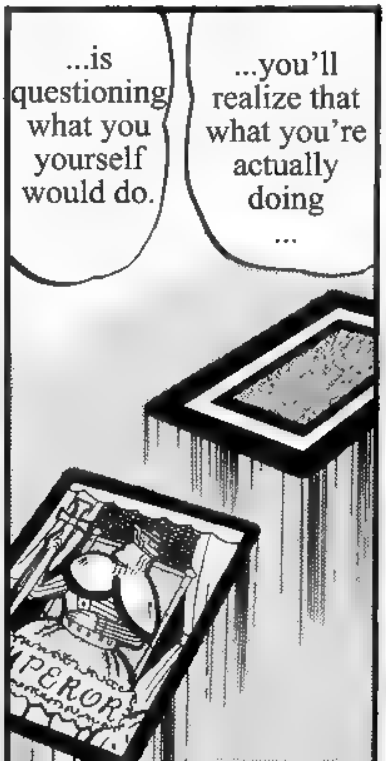
I know you're a snake ...!
Hehehe...
I see
...

You're the one who's a snake...!
Then it's you ...!


...is like staring into a mirror.
...where we sit like this and throw our cards in stony silence ...

A game of psychological warfare ...
Huh ...?

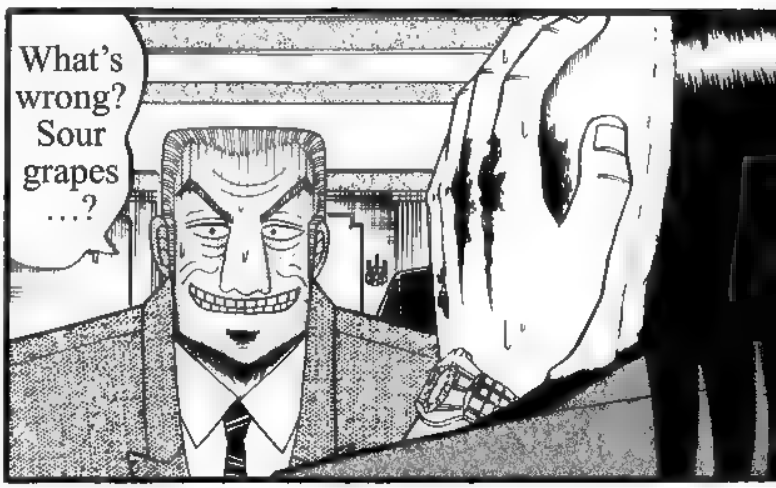
Instead you've been searching your own soul ...
In truth you've read no one ...
In other words ...


...is questioning what you yourself would do.
...you'll realize that what you're actually doing ...

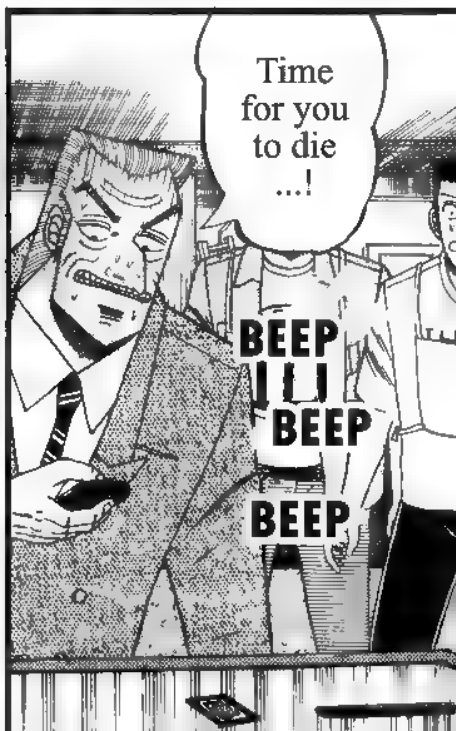
... but if you look closer ...
You might believe that you're reading your opponent ...

If you saw me as a snake ...
... then it's you who is the serpent!
Hehehe ...

CLUNK
This is too pathetic ...


What's wrong? Sour grapes ...?

BEEP
BEEP
17
16
15
I just can't listen to this anymore ...


Time for you to die ...!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

It's disgusting ...!
... and making accusations ...
Not so fast ...
... crying and bellyaching ...
BEEP
To see you spend your last moments ...
.....
I want to thank you ...
Who said I was complaining ...!?

Thank you for being a snake ...!

Thank you ...!
For doubting me ...!

The Slave ...

?.....
?.....
?....

FWICK

BOBA'S

EMPEROR

... Strikes home, once more!

Twice
...
He beat me twice ...!
Auggh ...!

AHHHHHH!
Kaiji-
san...!
Kaiji-
san...!

He did it...!
He did it...!
He did it...!
Yessss ...!
He did it...!
AH HH
Kaiji-san...!
Kaiji-san...!
Kaiji-san...!
WAHHH
Ngh ...!
Impossible ...!
Ahhh ...!
He won ...! He won...!
Ahh ...!
WAHHH
He won ...!
He won ...!
WAHHH

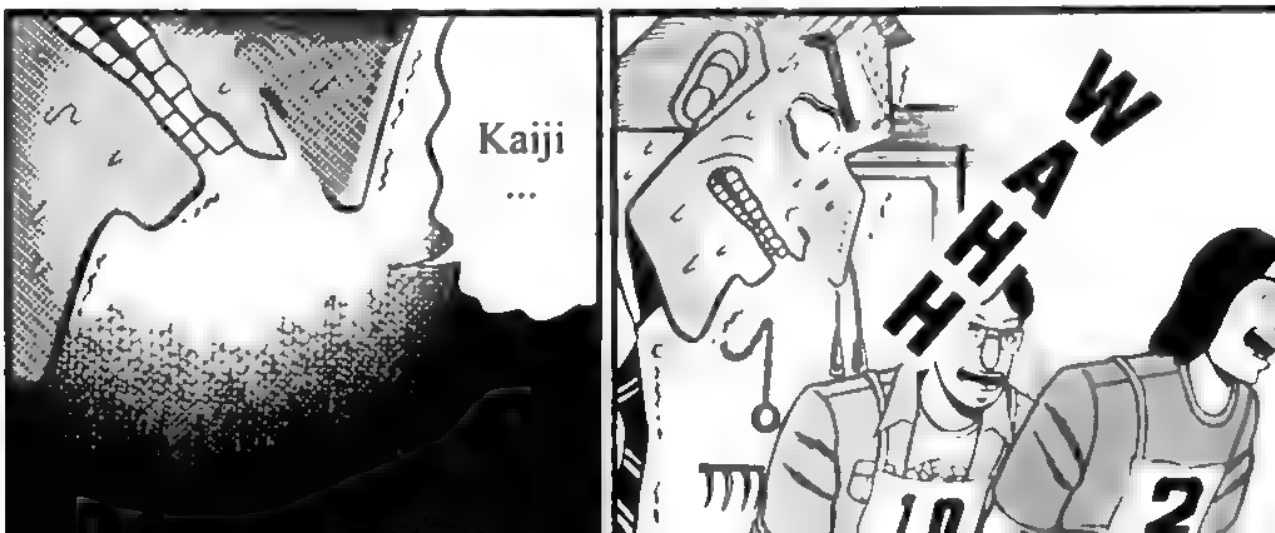
Why did he play the Slave...!?
SLAVE
Why ...!?
End of Chapter 133

Why ...!?
WAHHH

Why ...!?
Why did he play the Slave ...!?
EMPEROR
WAHHH

How ...!?
Why ...!?
Why ...!?
WAHHHH
He switched the cards...
Before he bled on the cards...
Before the match ...
... didn't he!?
Before he bled ...!
WAHHHH

Didn't he...!?
WAHHH
WAHHH


Kaiji ...
WAHHH

Kaiji ...!

Y-You switched the cards, didn't you ...!?

Hmph ...

?
Before you bled on them ...!

Sorry, pops...
...but you're wrong there!
Hehehe ...
... something similar...
... I did do...
It's true, when I bled on the cards ...
...was pull the Citizen and Slave cards from the 11th match close to me...
... all I did ...
... and then ...
... before I bled on my cards ...
Before the 12th match...
...but I didn't switch the cards!

That's all...!
But I picked that same Citizen card back up in the palm of my hand.
... next to them.
...set another Citizen card down ...
No way ...!
It only looked as if I had switched the cards ...!
What if I had noticed the blood...
Just think about it...!
I mean ...
That's not possible ...!
What if I thought it was just a mistake on your part ...?
...but hadn't gotten suspicious!?

You'd be dead now ...!
...for absolutely no reason!
You would have tipped your Slave card off to me...
You'd be dead ...!
Kaiji ...!
SLAM
Why didn't you...
Why ...!?
Why ...!?
Kaiji ...!
It's unheard of...!

...
switch
the
cards!?

Kaiji
...!

ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..

ざわ...

It's simple ...

I had faith in you...!
Faith ...?
That's right...
5

...believed in you!

...I still ...
Despite all of the abuse the director leveled at you...

Of all the adults I've met you are...
I knew that you are superior ...!

... but I knew better.
He might have called you trash...

...fail to notice those bloodstains!

... would never ...

...the shrewdest.
...far and away ...
I knew that a man like you...
5

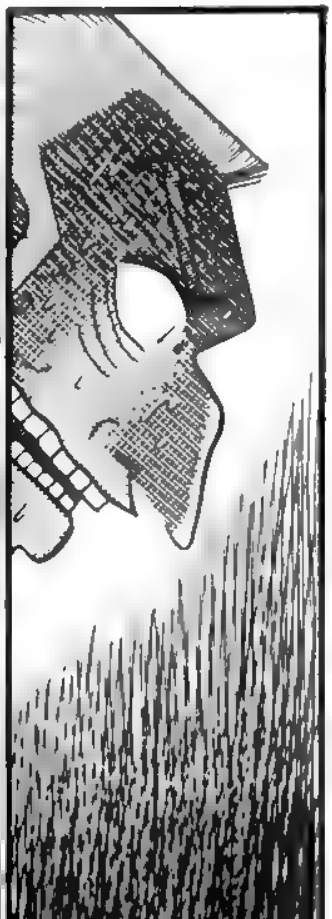
After all, you are superior ...!
You did notice ...
Of course you noticed ...
...at face value!
...you wouldn't simply take the blood...
...that once you noticed...
But I also knew ...
But that's only natural ...!
See them as intentional ...!
See them as a trap...!
That you would see through the stains ...!
I knew that you would be more insightful ...!

After all, you are superior...!
.....
Simply superior ...
Once you noticed you began to doubt.
.....
And then ...
... it was only a matter of time ...
...before you realized that I had a chance to change the cards!
Once you had made it that far you were bound to notice...
...that earlier, I had been...
... acting suspiciously.

It's true ...
You never bothered to second guess yourself.
...and started scoffing at me!
But then you looked down your nose...
You never considered that your own superior powers of perception might lose to me.
It was arrogance ...
Barely worth stepping on...!
... that I was inferior, a piece of trash...
...that I was a worthy opponent for you.
You never believed...
You were convinced ...
You've always been the one to win before...
After all, you are superior ...!
Pride ...!

...against pieces of trash like us!
38

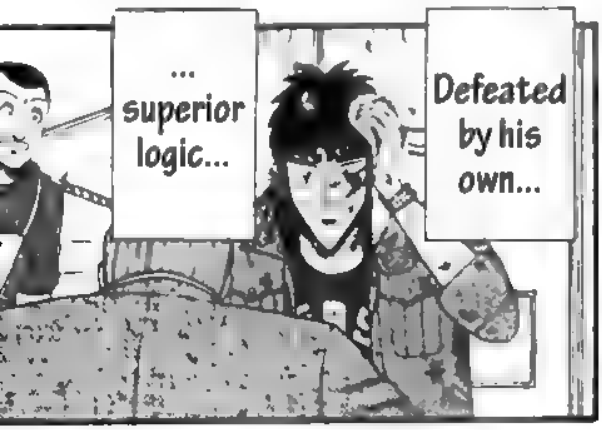
Ngh
...!



Nngghh
...

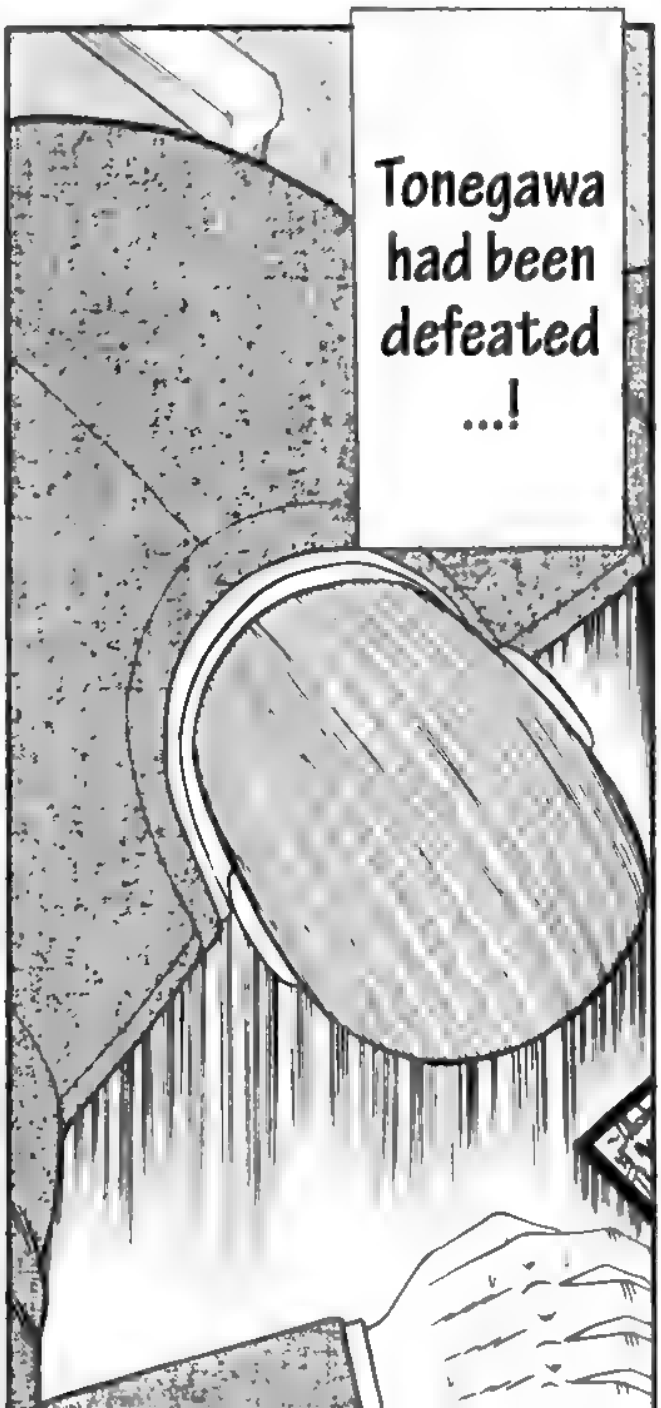
End of Chapter 134

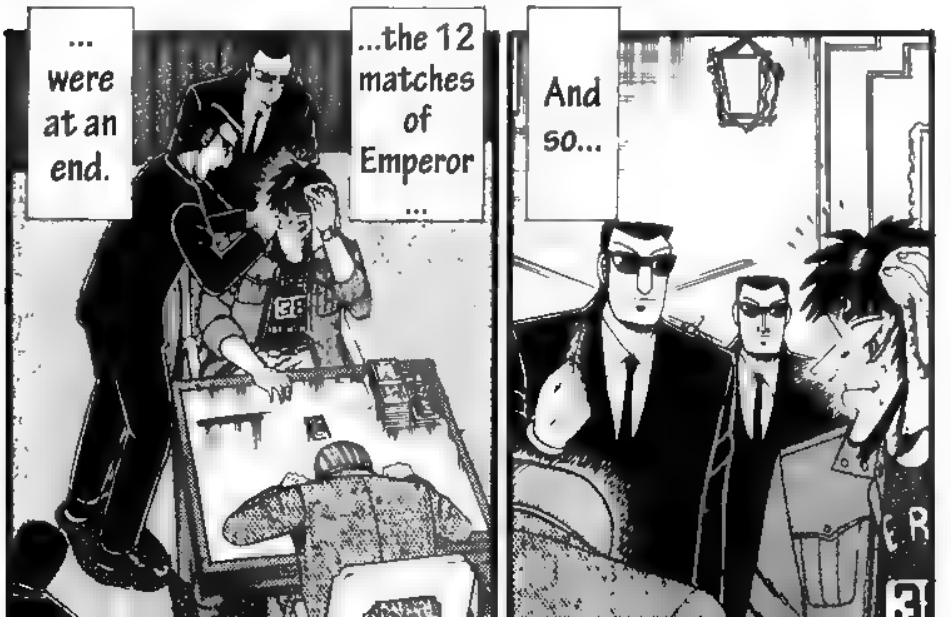
Chapter 135: Remorse


... superior logic...
Defeated by his own...

...and pride!

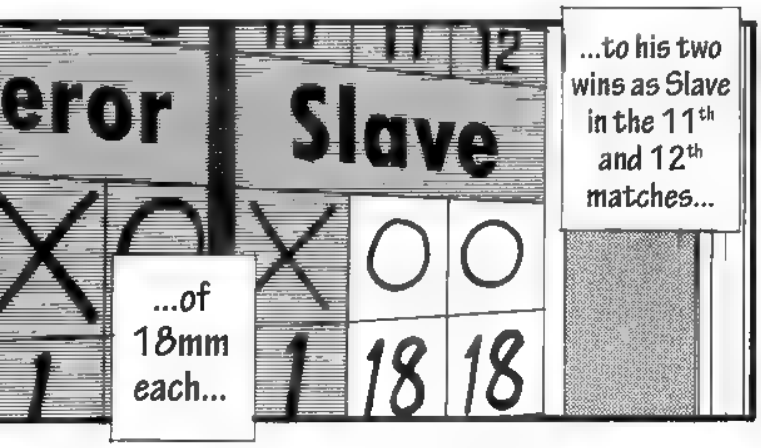
By the stubborn underdog ...
FWIP

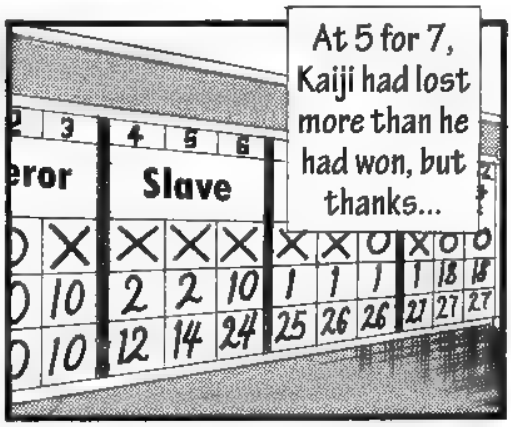

Tonegawa had been defeated ...!




!! the suicidal bravery of the Slave!

EMPEROR


eror
Slave
...of 18mm each...
...to his two wins as Slave in the 11th and 12th matches...

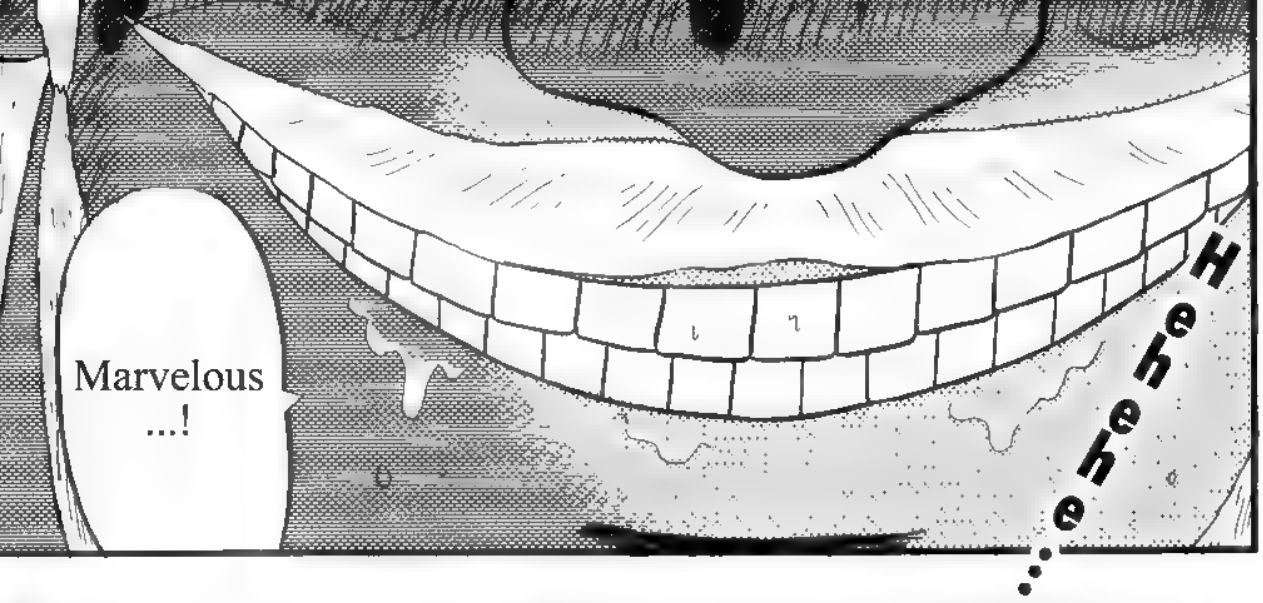

eror
Slave
At 5 for 7, Kaiji had lost more than he had won, but thanks...

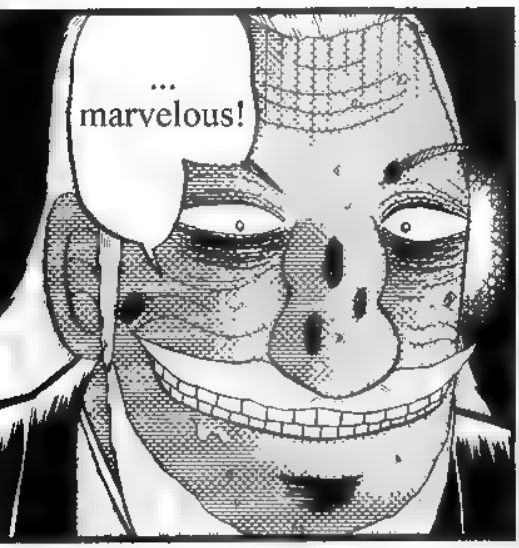
...and also...

Kaiji would survive ...

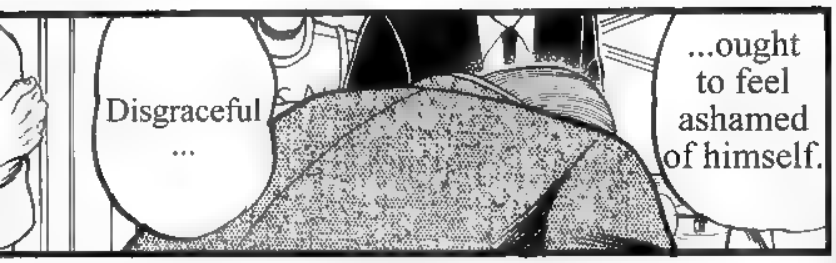
...the victory was his.
...in reality ...

THUMP
...be well rewarded!
Big money ...
ざわ
ざわ…
ざわ…
20.1 million yen...!
Hehehe ...
Hmph ...
……


Marvelous ...!
Hehehehe


... marvelous!

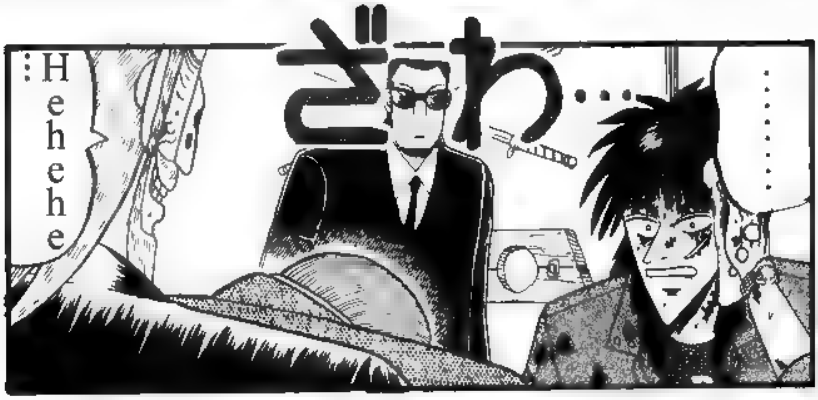
You truly are...
.....


Disgraceful ...
...ought to feel ashamed of himself.

Completely unforgivable ...!

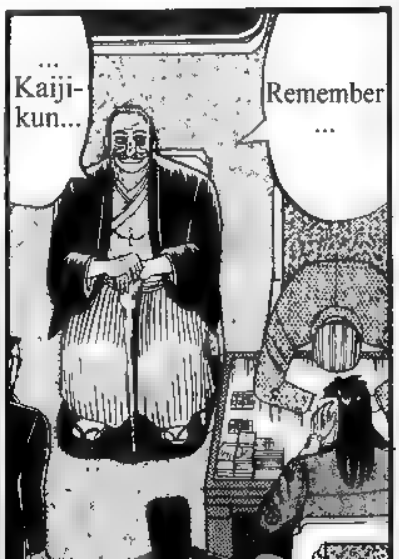
Compared to you...
.....
... Tonegawa, there...

Now then...
...
onto the matter
...
...of compensation!


ざわ...
.....
Hehehe

ERSI
38

...
your reward involved far more than money.


...
Kaiji-kun...
Remember ...

GASP!
Hehehe...
.....
Hehehe ...
Th-That's right ...!
JUMP
Hehehe ...
Apologize to Ishida-san and Sahara and everyone else who died...!
...and apologize!
Tonegawa...
That's right ...!
Get down on the floor...

When push comes to shove ...
Huh ...?
... do you, Kaiji-kun?
You don't get it...
But the problem isn't how low they bow...
...people are ready to bow their heads as low as you please.
He's not thinking of this Ishida, or whatever the name of your dead friend was.
Do you see ...!?
...he's wagging his tongue at you.
Tonegawa can roll his head in the dirt all you like but deep down...
Are they really apologizing from the gut...!?
...it's whether or not they mean it!

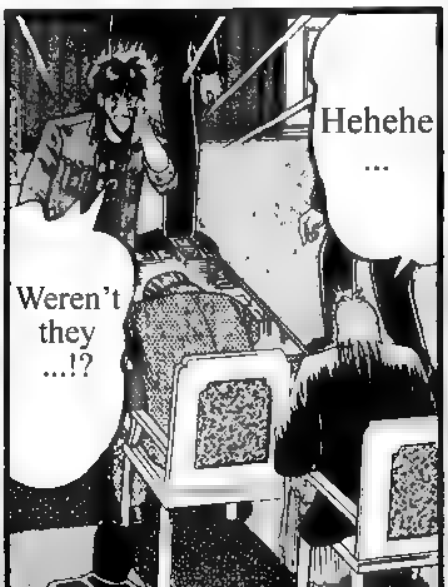
Hehehe ...
Well yeah, but...
.....
Ooo
Absolutely disgusting ...!
...that prostrating oneself in this manner is meaningless.
... without question to me...
It is ...
Time and again ...
... there is probably no one who has been bowed to as often as I.
Through all of Japan ...
As a result ...
...only wanting to help.
Time and time again have I lent them money ...
...and I have been unable to forsake them.
...those who have found themselves in trouble have come pleading to me...

When they borrow the money it is always the same story. "I promise that I'll pay you back...I promise on my life..."
I have been betrayed ...!
...time and time again!
... I have been disappointed ...
... they are just as quick to make excuses!
Naturally ...
But when it comes time to pay...
Our mutual promise ...
...the truth, clearly, is that they have no intentions of paying me back!
... as they roll their heads in the dirt ...
...they look as contrite as can please...
They were choosing to ignore it...!
...the contract which we had erected in good faith, and each had promised to honor, was to them no more than waste paper.
... however ...

The contracts you're talking about were actually usury, weren't they ...!
Hmm ...?

Because it was usury ...!

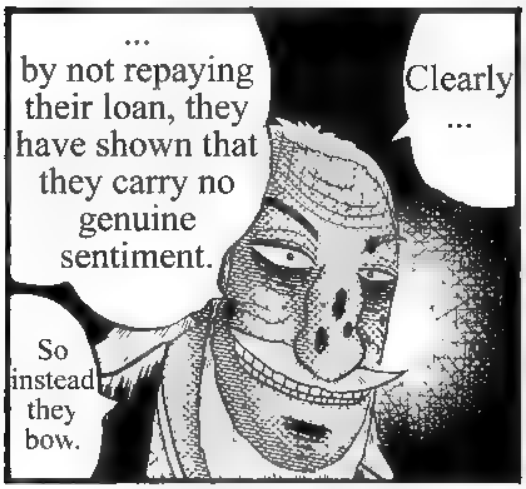
Kaiji-kun...

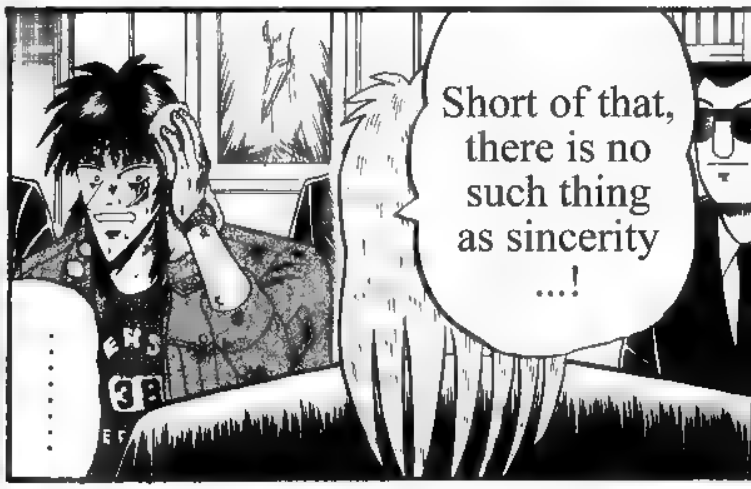

Hehehe ...
Weren't they ...!?

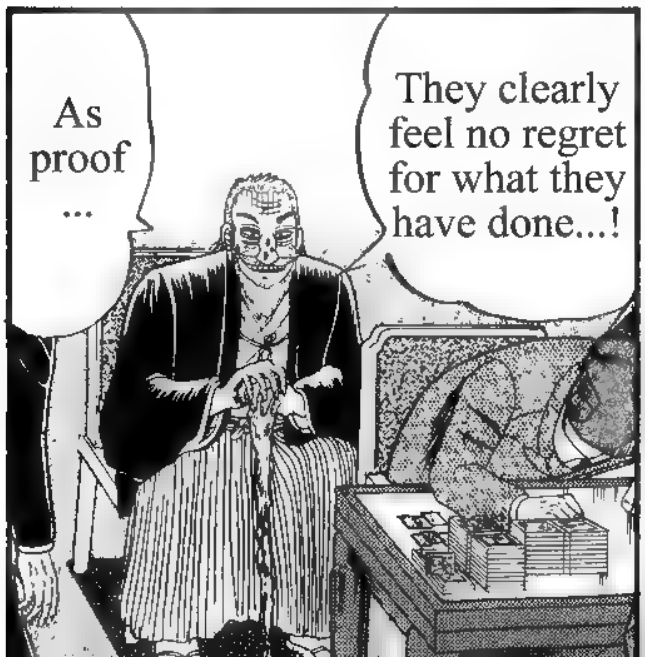
...for instance, be it 10% every three days...or even every single day...
Regardless of how high the interest is...
Here there is no such thing as usury...!
...this is never usury!
The borrower accepts his money knowing full well...
...every single detail pertaining to interest.
...what interest which is attached.
Before I lend a person money I am careful to explain...
I hide nothing.
...to show such cheek as a borrower!
Usury is...
The process is entirely democratic!
Where is the problem...?
Usury ...!?

And they have the gall...
...to come kneeling and bowing their heads.
...
as mere rubbish and choose
...
It is they who chose to treat our contract...
...despite their ever so sincere...
...
apologies.
...to blame me, inside, for not forgiving them...
...to believe themselves truly contrite...
...
and
...
...as they bow their heads so
...
.....
Can you imagine ...!?
They denounce me as cold-hearted...!
Sincerity in a loan
...
...and do whatever necessary
...
...to lie, cheat and steal...
...would be to sell a kidney
...
...
there is only one way to prove...
...your sincerity in the face of a loan?
Naturally, these apologies show no genuine contrition...
For after all...

...by the appointed day!
...in order to pay off the loan...


...
by not repaying their loan, they have shown that they carry no genuine sentiment.
So instead they bow.
Clearly ...


Short of that, there is no such thing as sincerity ...!
.....


As proof ...
They clearly feel no regret for what they have done...!

...they simply prove themselves to be men of low rank ...
But by bowing their heads low...
Of inferior character and pride ...

... they are not so eager and contrite!
... suddenly ...
... increase the burden of their apology ...
... should you, perhaps ...
If they felt it in their hearts...
If they were truly sorry...
ROLL
This is inexcusable ...!
Even if...
...then they should be able to prostrate themselves anywhere!
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

:it meant
igniting
themselves!!
:skin and
bone!!
:upon plates
of hot steel!
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZ
SIZZ

Now that would be true sincerity...!
Hehehe

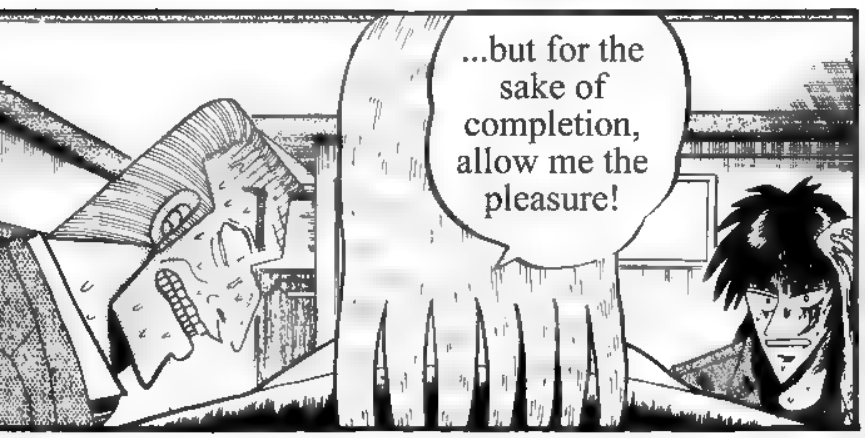
In fact, it should be impossible for them not to do so...!
...they should be able to apologize!
If they are truly sorry, and feel it deep in their hearts...
They should be able to do this...!
Isn't that right, Tonegawa ...!?

End of Chapter 135

# Chapter 136: Compulsion

HISSS
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
HSS
HSS
HSS
HSS
HSS
HSS
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ

Hehehe
...
Ngh
...!


...but for the sake of completion, allow me the pleasure!

...I need to explain the process to you, Tonegawa ...
I don't imagine ...

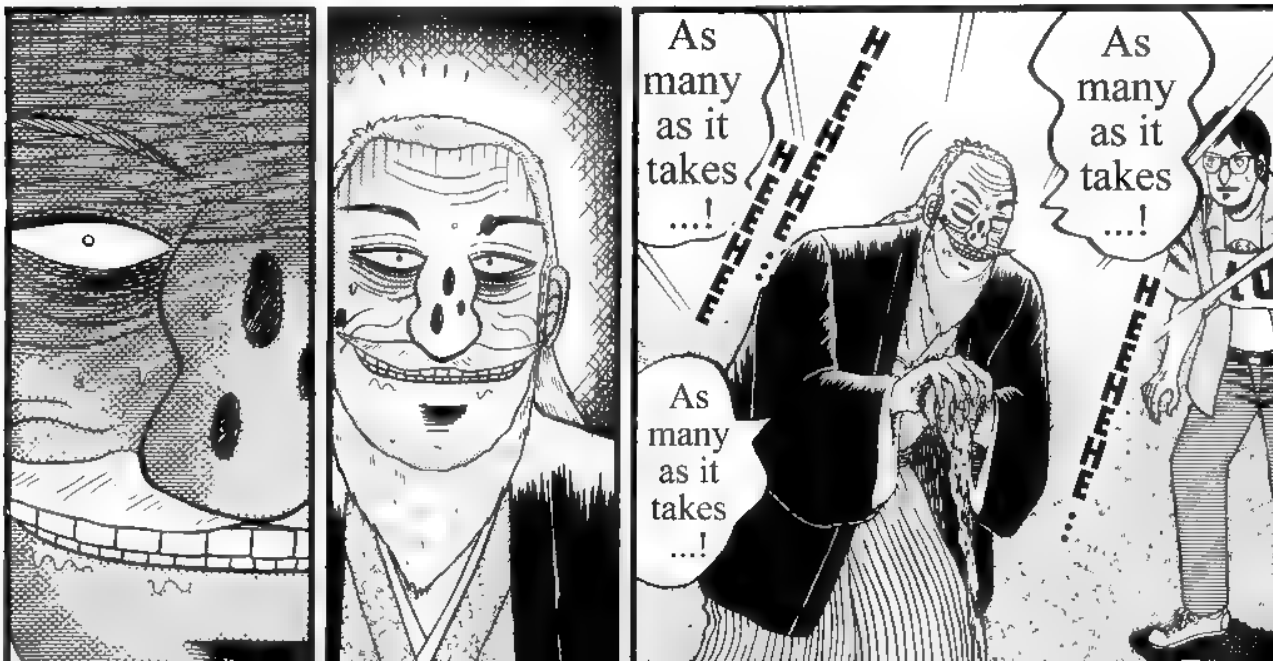
.....

...you must bow your head for 10 seconds continuously!
... you will be able to prove the sincerity of your apology.
By prostrating yourself upon this burning plate...
At the very least ...
...from the moment that your forehead touches the plate!
The 10 seconds start...
If you believe that you have already bowed for 10 seconds then you are free to stop.
You must use your own judgment ...
However ...
It is your choice ...
From then until the moment you raise your head is the time you have spent apologizing.
...as to when to stop.

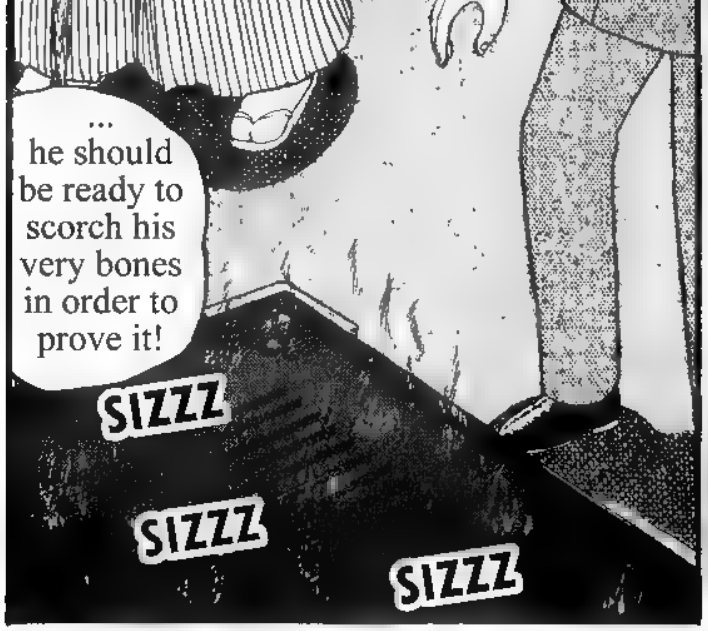
Thus ...
...should the time not measure 10 seconds ...
... to measure the time spent in sincere apology.
...with our own stopwatch ...
...we will be timing you...
...from the very start!
You will be required to apologize once more ...
... then you must begin anew!
...even by the smallest of fraction ...
...for you to succeed in prostrating yourself for 10 seconds!
We will do this as many times as it takes ...
Even if the skin and meat of your brow ...
... should fall off ...
As many as it takes ...!
Hehehe ...
.....

...brand the naked bones of your skull!
... and we must ...

.....
Heehehe ...


As many as it takes ...!
HEEHEEHEE...
As many as it takes ...!
HEEHEEHEE...
As many as it takes ...!

Hehehe
...
...it is a necessity!
However
...
...that I would carry this so far.
You look shocked
...
Only by increasing that pain can one prove themselves ...!
Only then will they learn...
Its value must be augmented ...!
...should be as painful as possible.
The act of apologizing ...
It is not too much to ask...!
... hehehe ...
Heehehehe ...
...the value of sincerity!


...
he should be ready to scorch his very bones in order to prove it!
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ

...and feels it deep in his heart ...
If he truly wishes to apologize ...

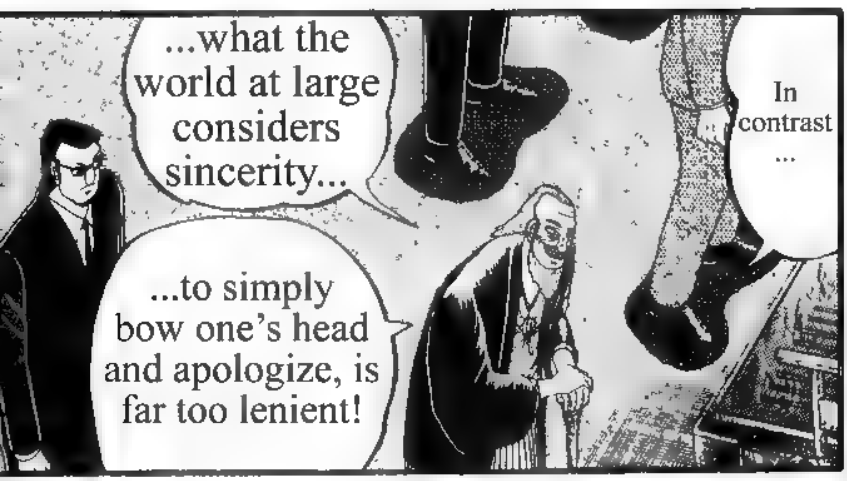
...to me, for causing such embarrassment!
...he will have apologized ...

...will your dead friends be truly appeased, Kaiji-kun...
Only then ...
...and at the same time...

True sincerity ...

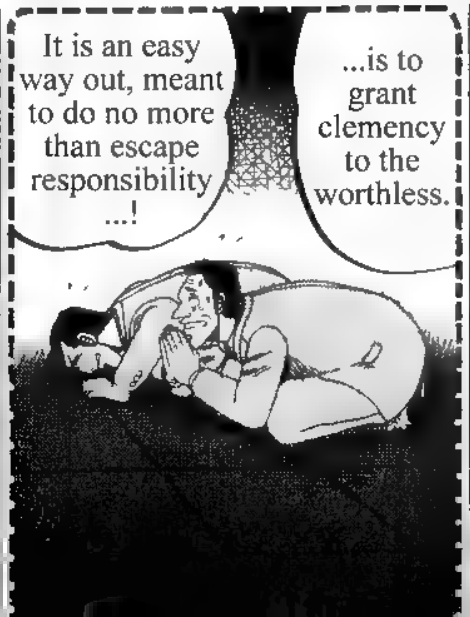
It is a necessity ...!
SIZZZZ
SIZZZZ
SIZZZ
Anything less is insufficient ...!

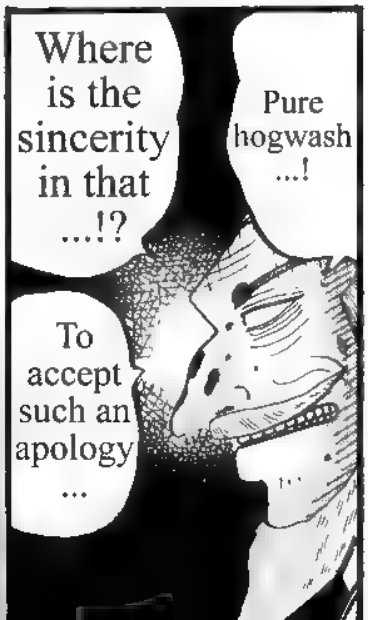
...
must be exacting!


...what the world at large considers sincerity...
...to simply bow one's head and apologize, is far too lenient!
In contrast ...

Hehehe ...

Isn't that right, Tonegawa ...!?


It is an easy way out, meant to do no more than escape responsibility ...!
...is to grant clemency to the worthless.


Where is the sincerity in that ...!?
Pure hogwash ...!
To accept such an apology ...

Show us...
Then prove it ...!
You are different from such trash, aren't you...!?
... your sincerity!

Heehehe
...
Hehehe
...

Oi...!
At least, on your own...!

...it is too much to ask of you.
But I suppose ...

Sir...!
Bring the device ...!

HUSTLE
HUSTLE
HUSTLE
?

Huh ...!?

CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP

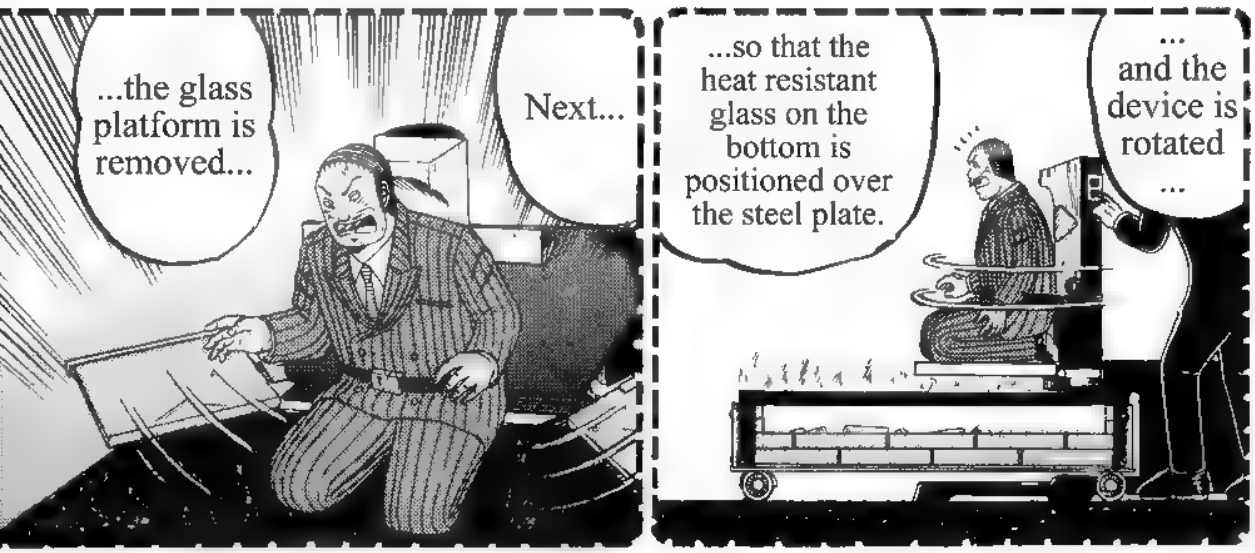
There it is ...!
Hehehe ...

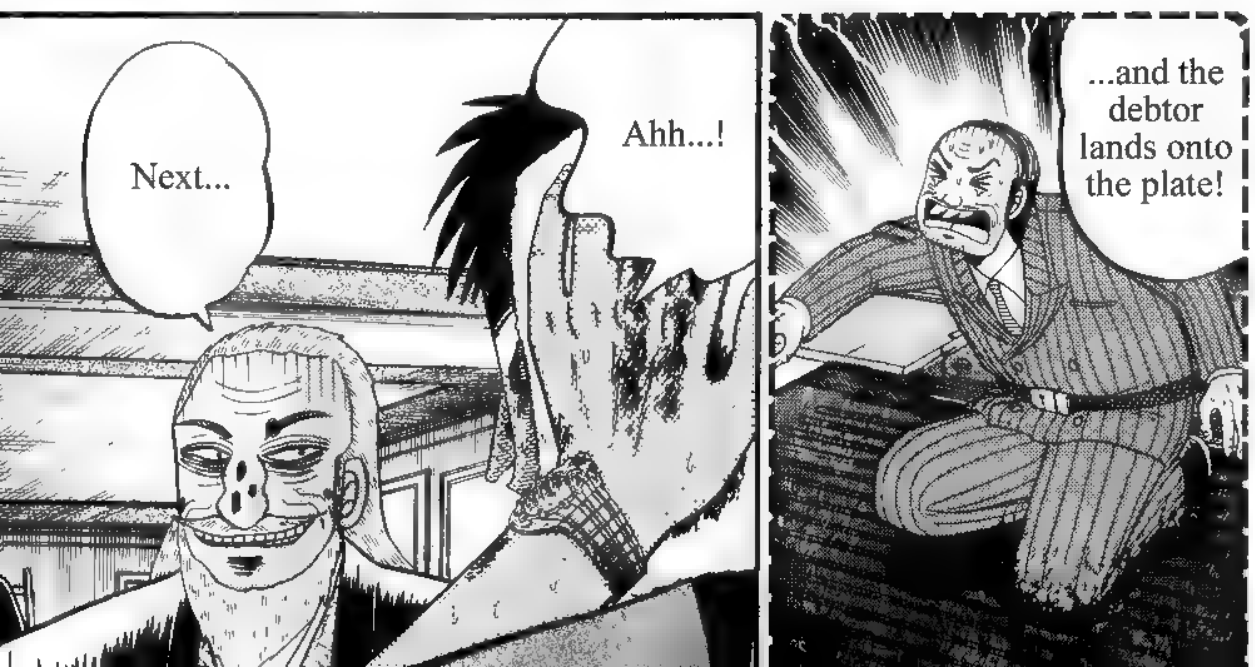
Heehehe ...
I must admit, I do love this device ...!

?

The Penance Machine...!

...
strapped in...
...is placed onto the device...
A poor, misguided debtor who has attempted to shirk out on their loan...
.....
It is very simple to use ...


...the glass platform is removed...
Next...
...so that the heat resistant glass on the bottom is positioned over the steel plate.
... and the device is rotated ...


Next...
Ahh...!
...and the debtor lands onto the plate!

...forcing the debtor to prostrate himself!
...the device swivels forward...
Heehehe ...
...but to push down the hands and faces
This leaves us no choice ...
...of these fellows, manually!
...despite these preparations there are still many, if you can believe it...
However ...
...who do not fully reach a prostrate position.

We must use physical strength ...
...to impart sincerity ...
...to those who have none!

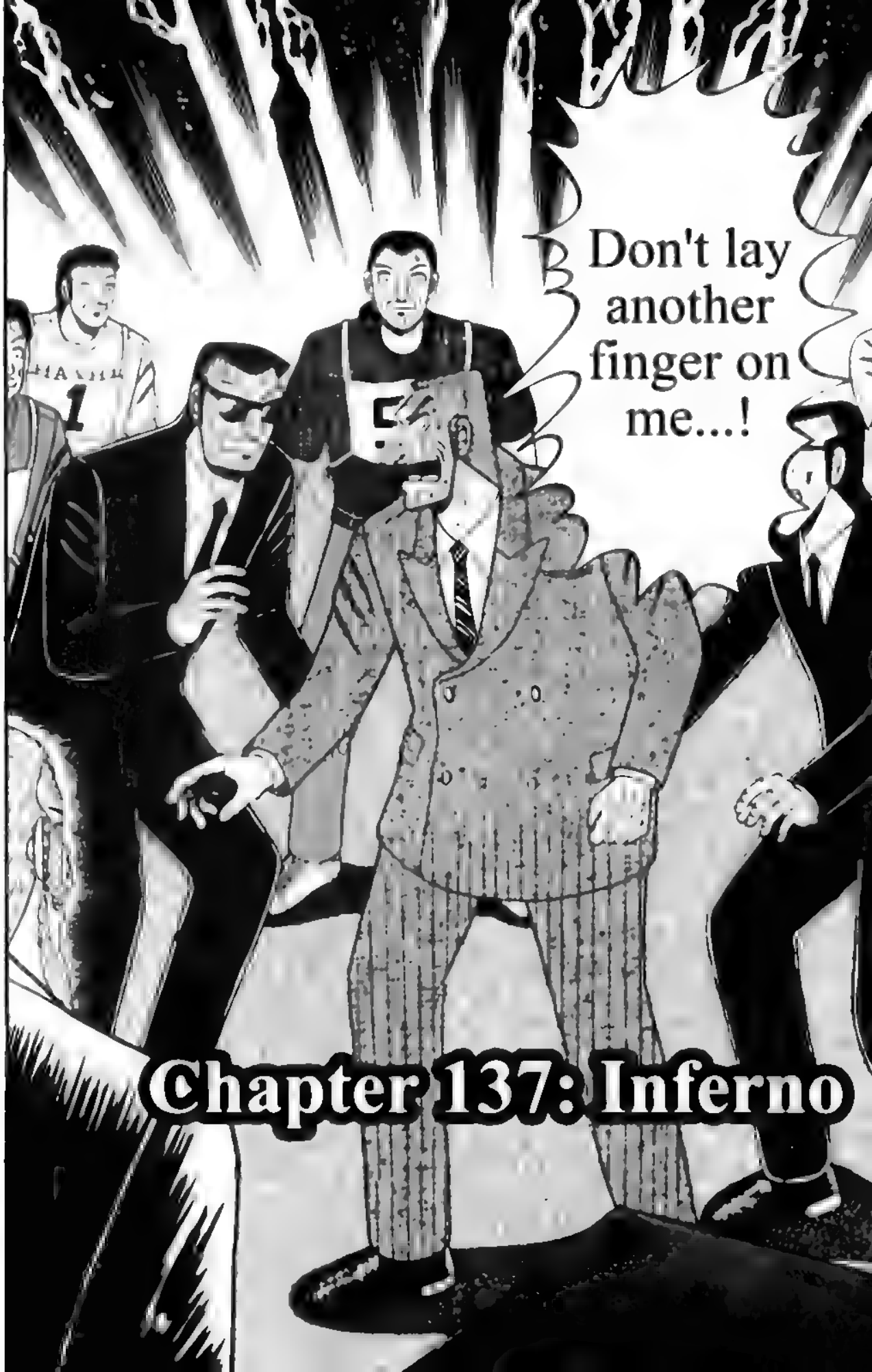
...their entire face is burned instead, and they faint from the pain...
...but since they struggle ...
...their foreheads would be the only area burned...

If they only cooperated ...
Inevitably they writhe in pain...!

...or soil themselves!

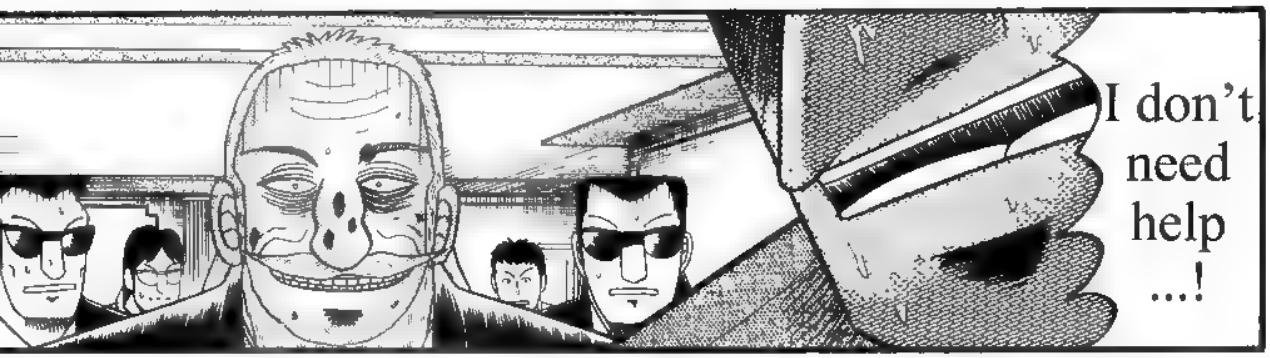
: Heehehehe

...let us get started!
Now then...
SPAK
GRAB
...your penance of fire!
SHF
It's time to begin...
Hey...!
Get your hands off me...!
SHOVE
SQEEZE




# Chapter 137: Inferno

I can do it myself...!
THUD
Get back ...!

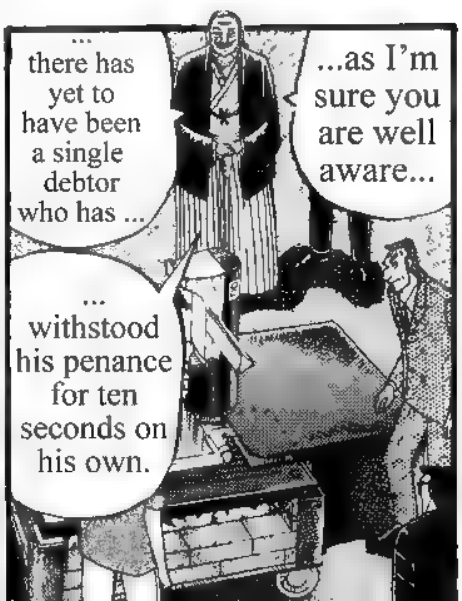

I don't need help ...!

However, Tonegawa ...
...I could wish for nothing more.
Obviously ...

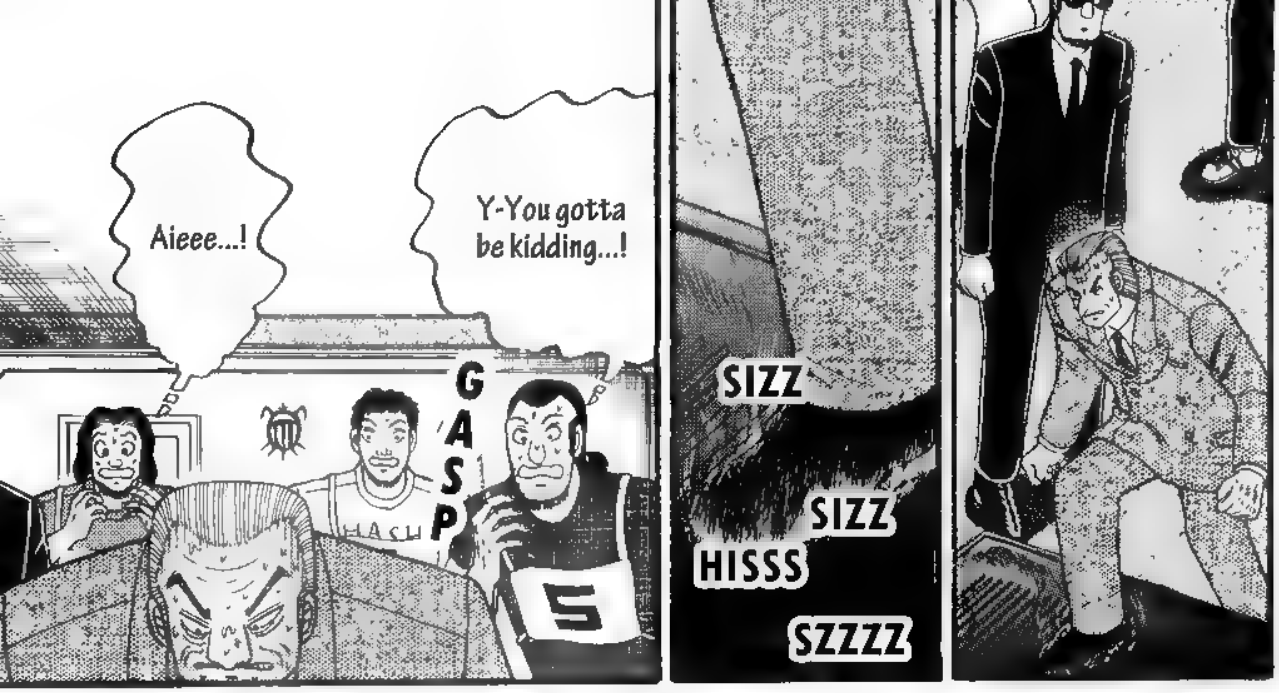
Heehehe ...

...we will burn your face as many times as it takes!
HEEHEHEHE

...any harder on yourself.
For your own sake, don't make this...
After all, if you fail...
SZZZ
SZZZ


... there has yet to have been a single debtor who has ...
...as I'm sure you are well aware...
... withstood his penance for ten seconds on his own.

Heehehehe ...
Take the device away ...!
SZZZ
CRACKLE
POP
SZZZ
SZZZ
ざわ..
CLICK
CLICK
I know ...!
Alright... the time starts when your forehead touches the plate...
SZZ
SZZ
SZZZ


Aieee...!
Y-You gotta be kidding...!
GASP
SIZZ
SIZZ
HISSS
SZZZZ

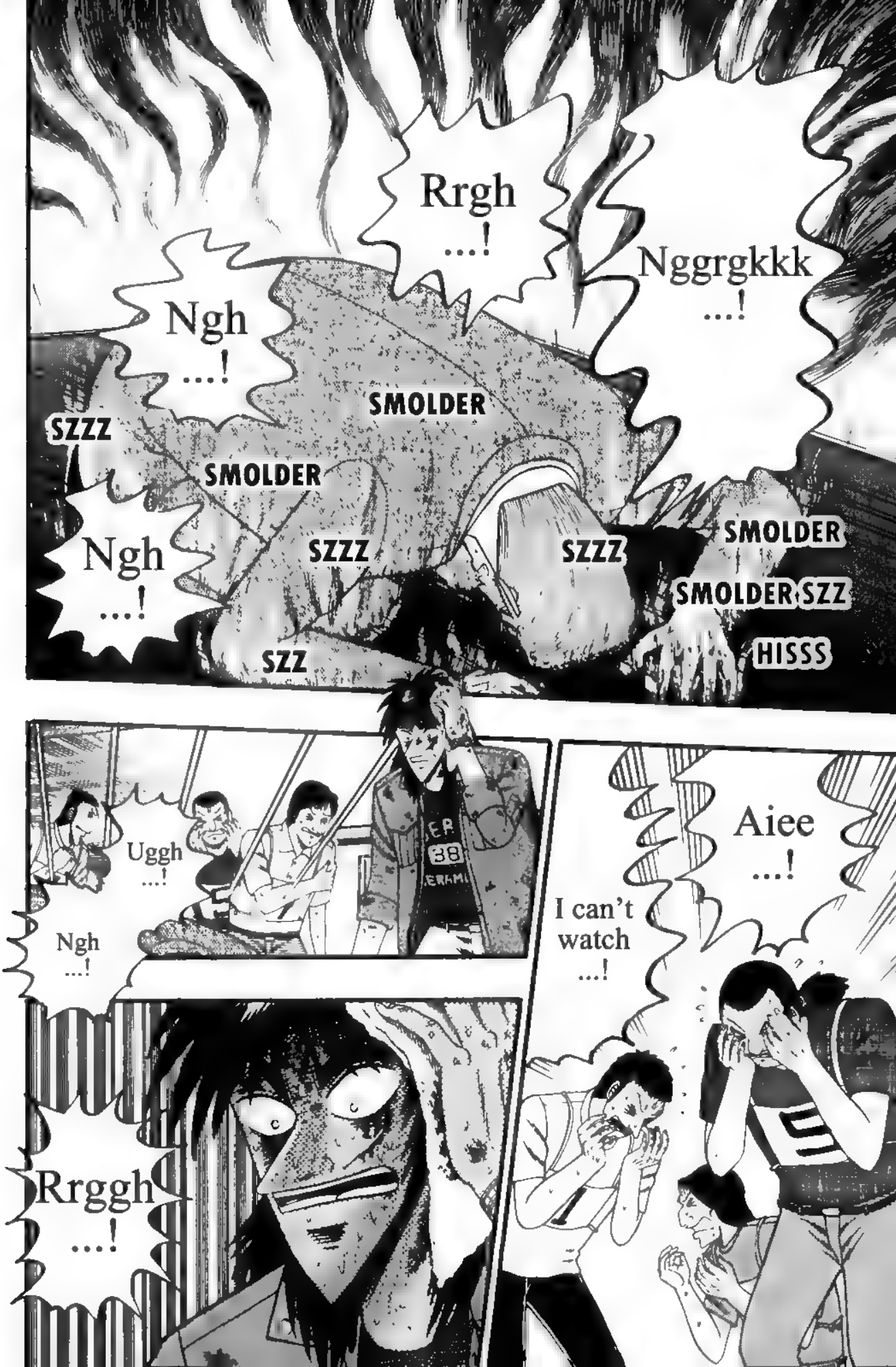
KNEEL
Ahh...!
Tonegawa ...!

SZZZ
SZZZ
His knees ...!
HISSS
HISSS
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
WHAM
His hands ...!
SIZZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SZZ
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SMOLDER

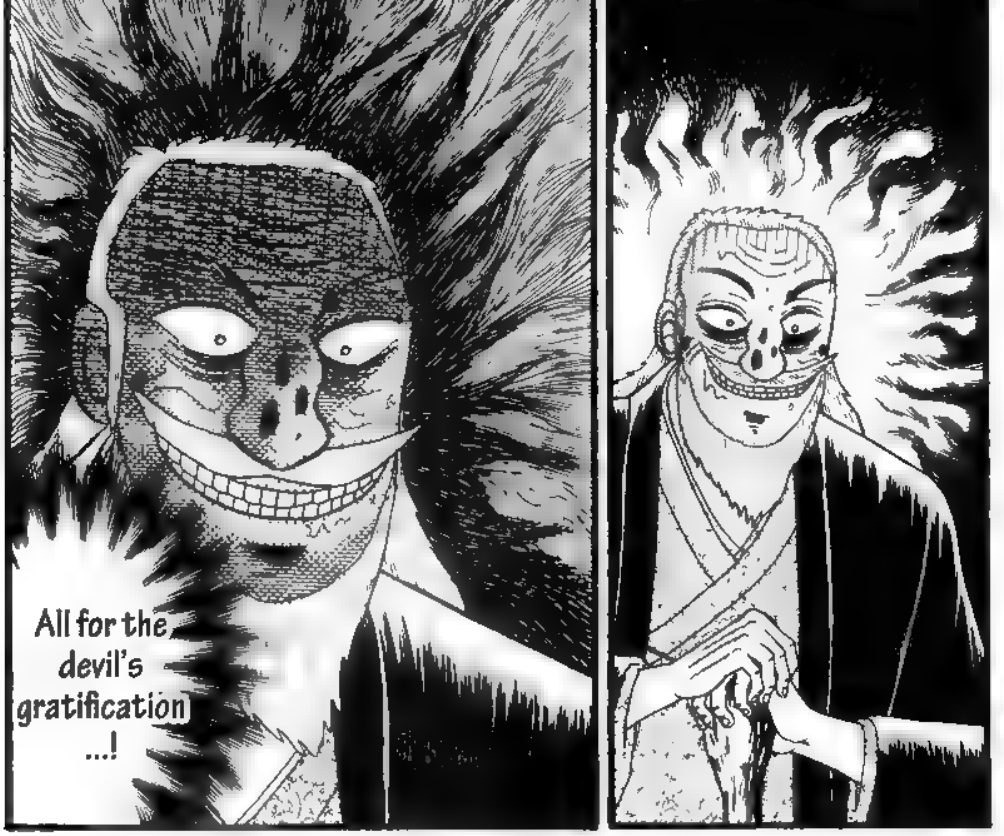
AUGGHHHH!
Ngh ...!
Hyrrkkk!
SZZ
HISS
HISS
HISS
SZ SZZ
SZZZ

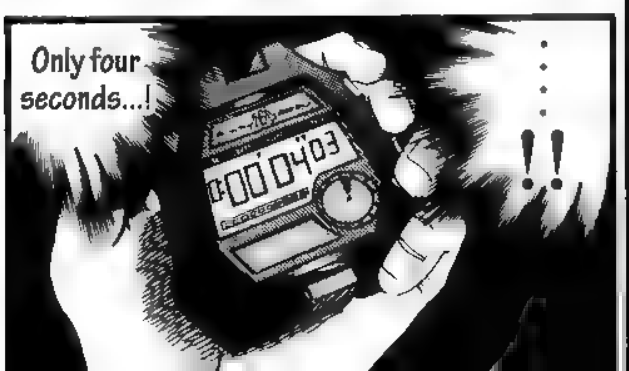
HSSSS
SZZ
SZZZZ
SZZ
HISS
SZZ
HISS
HISSSS
SZZ
His forehead ...!
SZZZ
SZZ
SZZZZ

AAHHHH!
Ahhhh ...!
Ahh ...!
Ah ...!
Ah ...!
Ah ...!
Ah ...!
Augghhh ...!
Aieee ...!
S-Start ...!
SZZ
SZZZ
SZZ

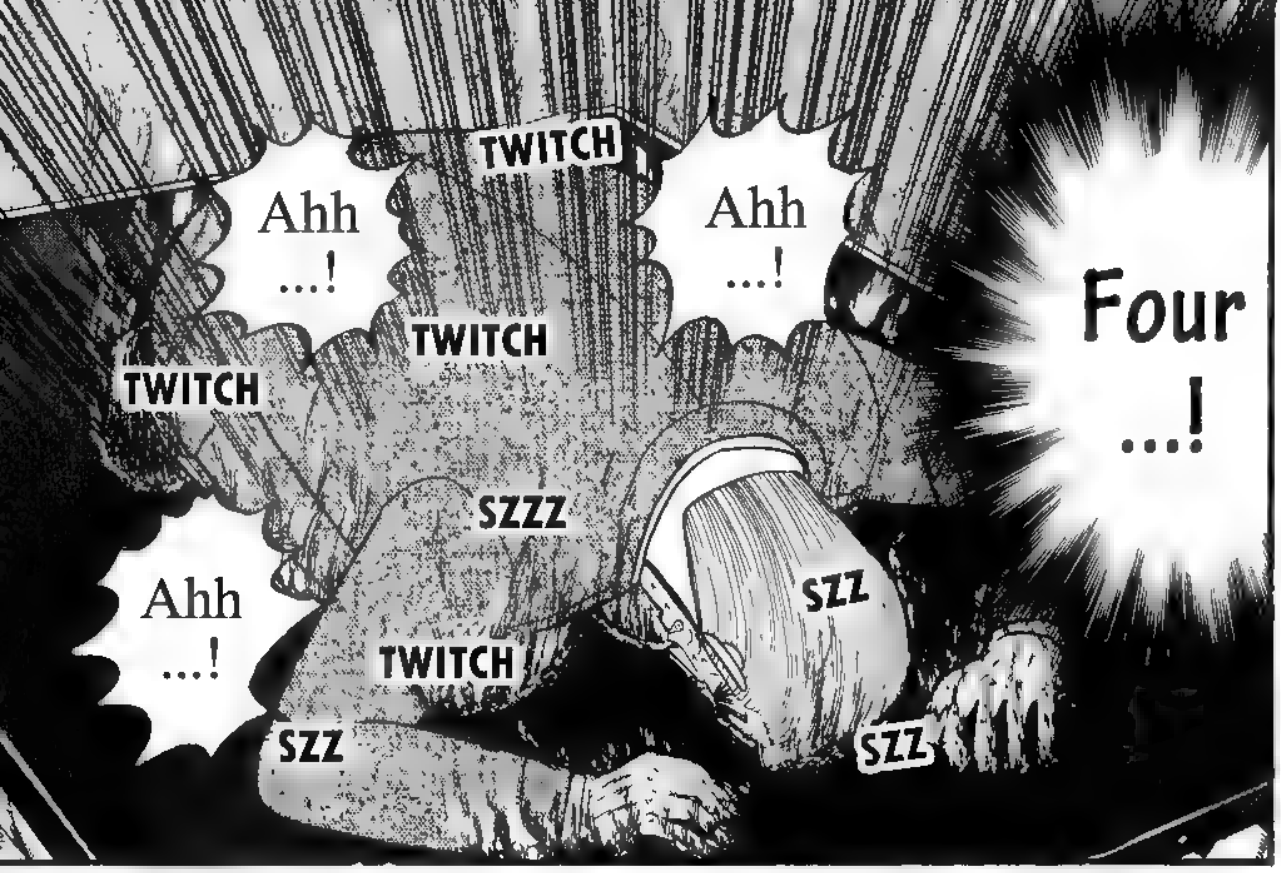

Rrgh ...!
Nggrgkkk ...!
Ngh ...!
SMOLDER
SZZZ
SMOLDER
Ngh ...!
SZZZ
SZZZ
SMOLDER
SMOLDER SZZ
HISSS
SZZ
Uggh ...!
Ngh ...!
Aiee ...!
I can't watch ...!
Rrggh ...!

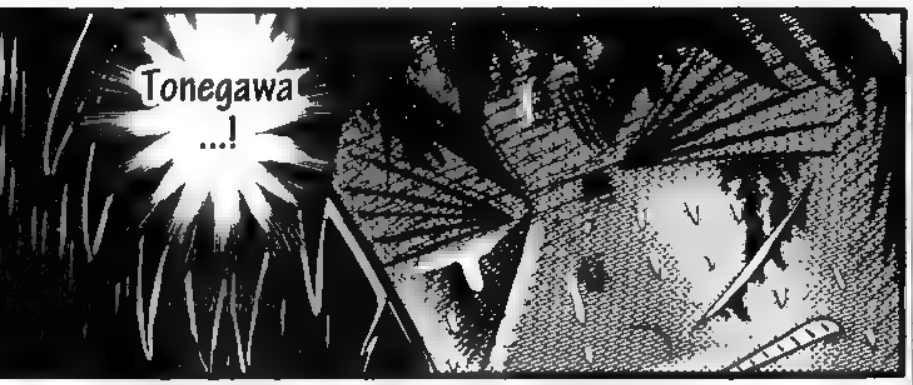
Ahhhhh...!
Ngh ...!
Ahh...!
The ten seconds seemed to last an eternity...
Ah ...!
Ahh ...!
2
4
The ten seconds continued ...!
Ahh ...!
Ahh...!
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
Ahh ...!
...and hellish pandemonium.
The horrible stench ...
Ahh...!





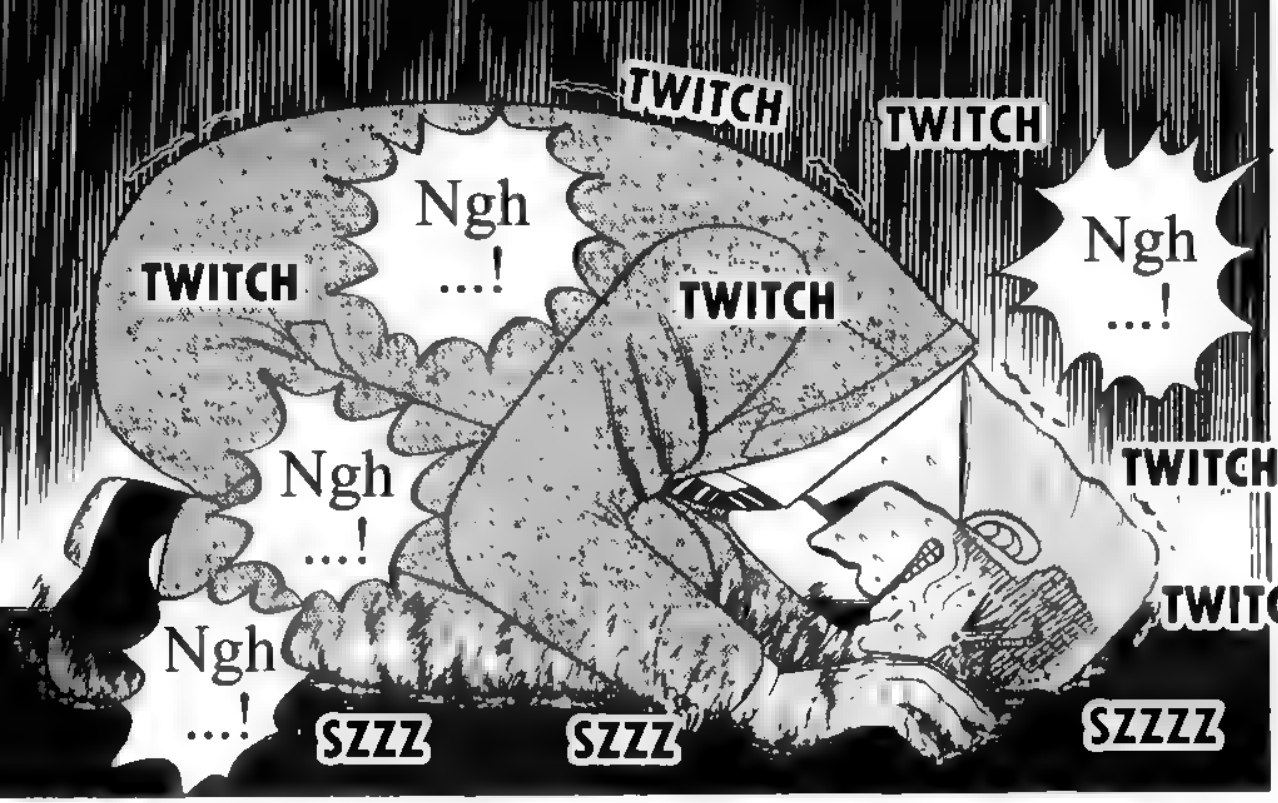

A nightmare without end...!


TWITCH
Ahh ...!
Ahh ...!
Four ...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
SZZZ
Ahh ...!
SZZ
TWITCH
SZZ
SZZ


Tonegawa ...!

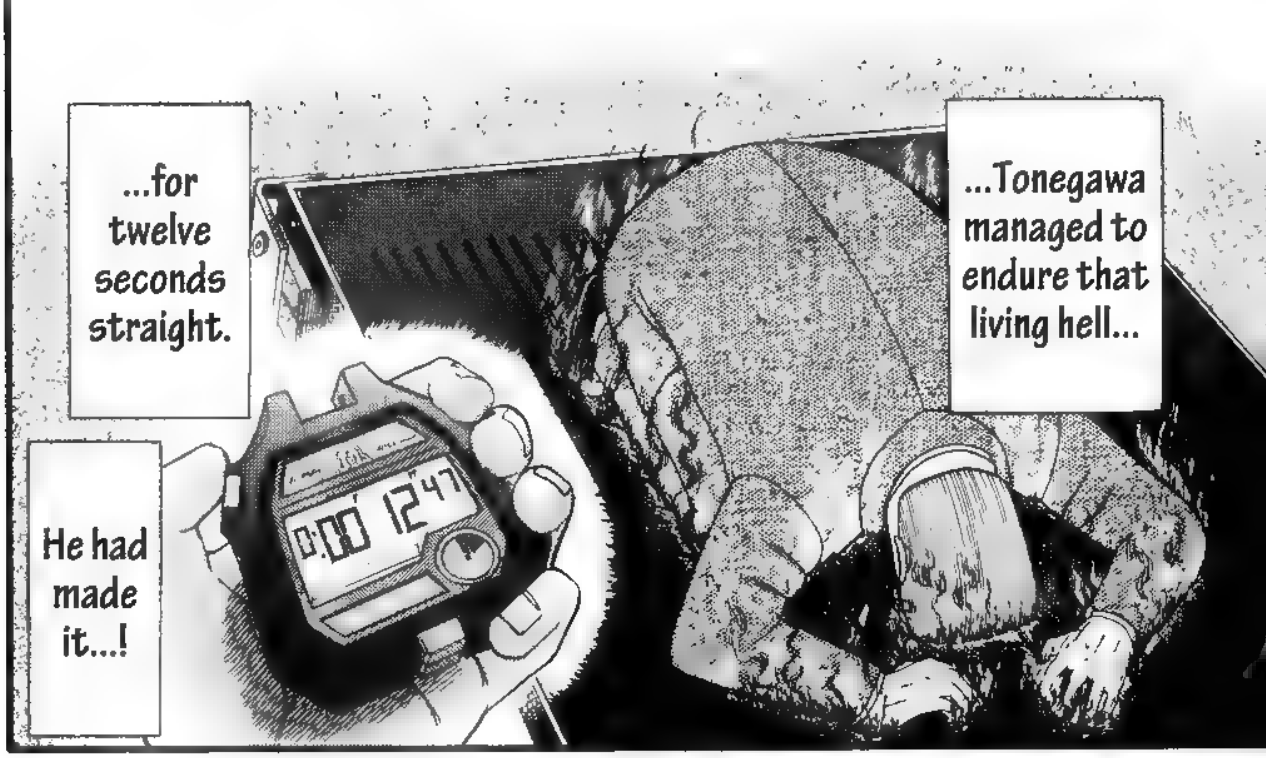
Tone ...

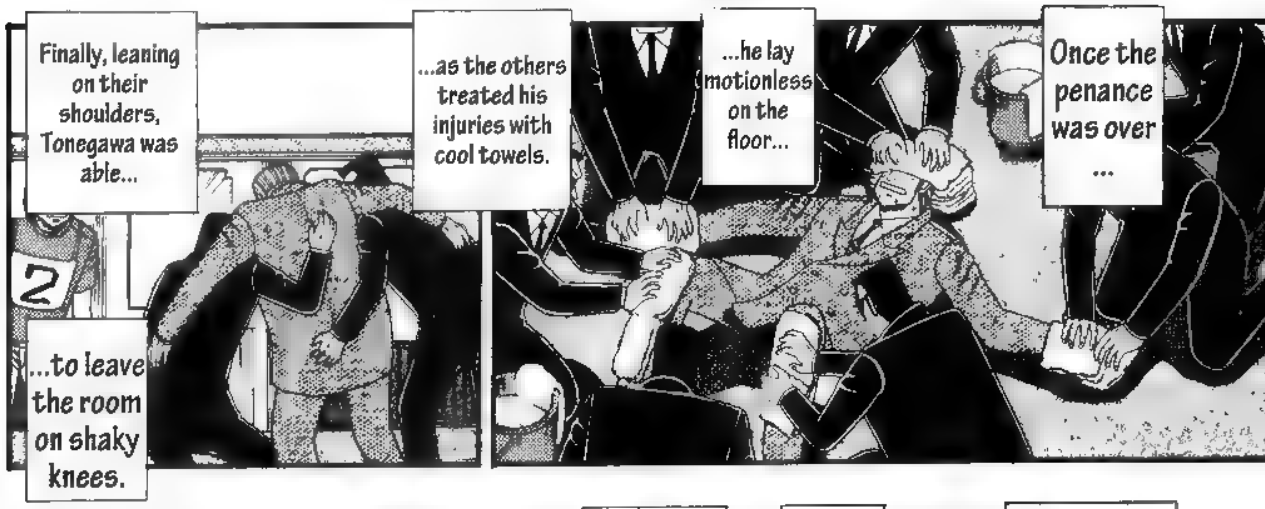
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB


TWITCH
TWITCH
Ngh ...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
Ngh ...!
Ngh ...!
Ngh ...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZZ

What's wrong with me...!?
Ngh...!

In the end...
Man ...!
Why am I crying ...!?
What is this ...!?


...for twelve seconds straight.
...Tonegawa managed to endure that living hell...
He had made it...!


Finally, leaning on their shoulders, Tonegawa was able...
...as the others treated his injuries with cool towels.
...he lay motionless on the floor...
Once the penance was over ...
...to leave the room on shaky knees.

... had endured!
Tonegawa...
But regardless ...
He was too far gone for anything more...

Endured the Penance of Fire...!
I had it wrong ...!

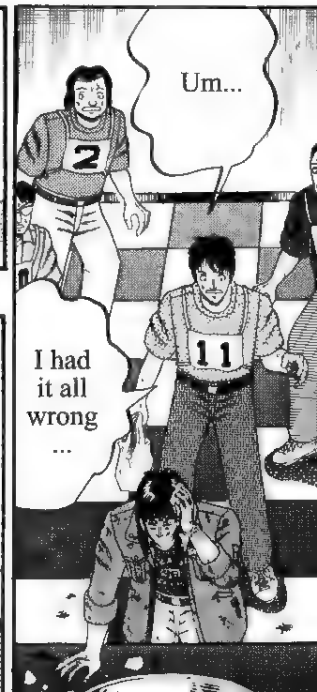
...all wrong!
I had it...
Huh ...?
End of Chapter 137

# Chapter 138: Downhearted

ざわ…ざわ…
ざわ…

He was just a puppet...!

Tonegawa ...
Had what wrong ...?


Um...
2
11
I had it all wrong ...

Our real enemy ...

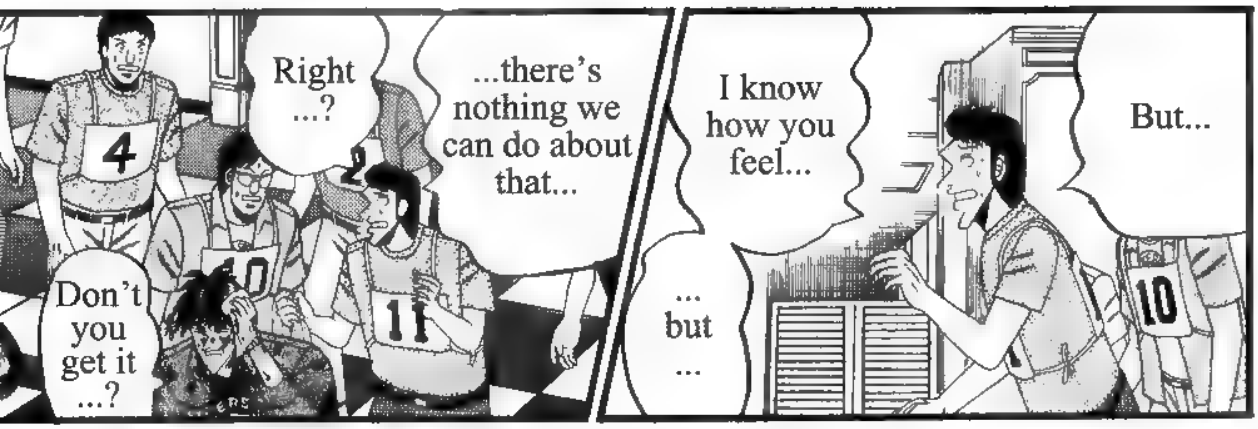
Don't you see ...?
...he was discarded without a moment's thought!

...like all the rest of us! But once...
... he had outlived his usefulness ...
He was being used ...

He wasn't the real enemy...!

... the director!
... is him ...
.....
2
11

Until I defeat the director...
...I haven't taken revenge yet for Ishida-san and the others!
But...


But...
I know how you feel...
... but ...
...there's nothing we can do about that...
Right ...?
Don't you get it ...?

I haven't won...!
Huh ...?
They've beaten me...!
No, no...!
That's not true, Kaiji-san ...!
Yeah ...!

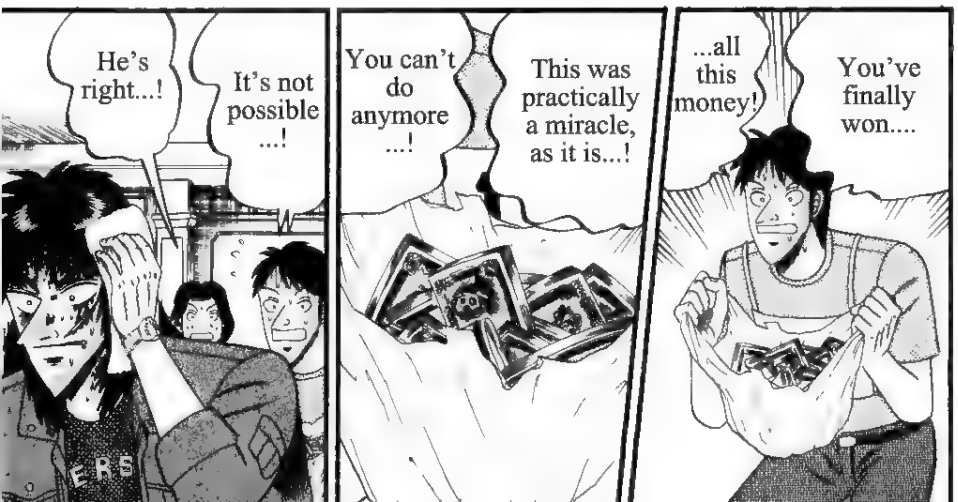
...is just my fee for giving the old man a good show.
So what's wrong with that...!?
Look at all this money ...
You've won already, haven't you...!?
The money ...
Wrong ...!
This money is what you've been fighting for, isn't it...!?
What's the difference ...!?
Money is money...!
I wanted ...
.....
The money is only part of it...
This was about more than money ...

I wanted to defeat ...
...my enemy!

To bet it all ...

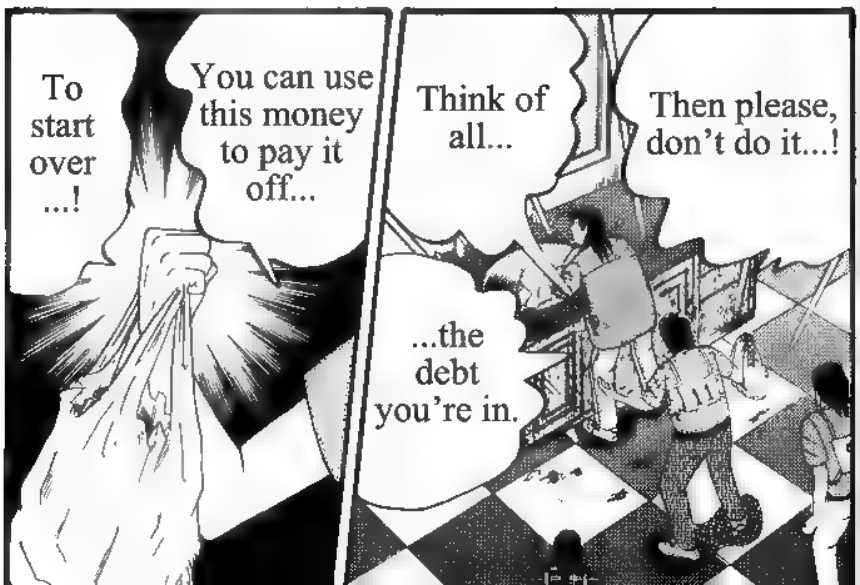
If I can find a way...
...I want to bet this money...
...one more time ...

...against the director!

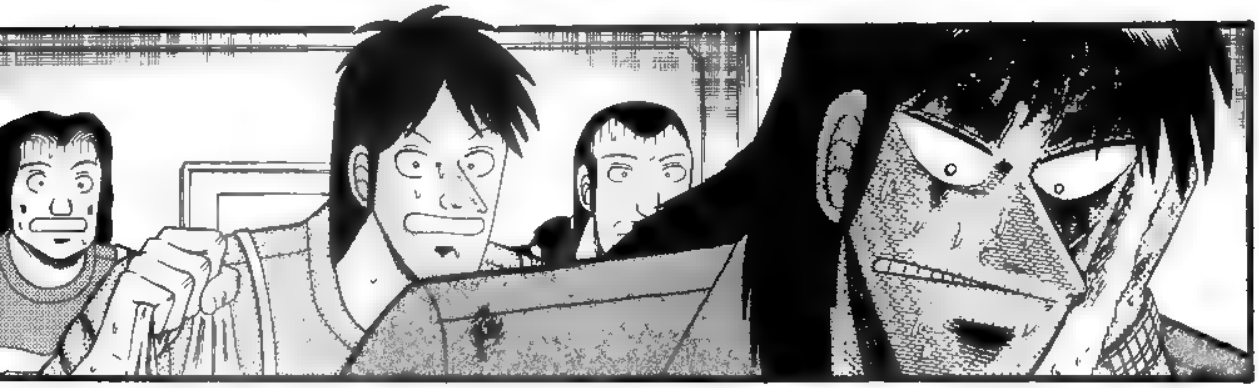


Something else up your sleeve...!?
Is that it...? Do you have a plan...?
... you've got some way...
...to win another match.
Unless...

Kaiji-san ...!
No...!

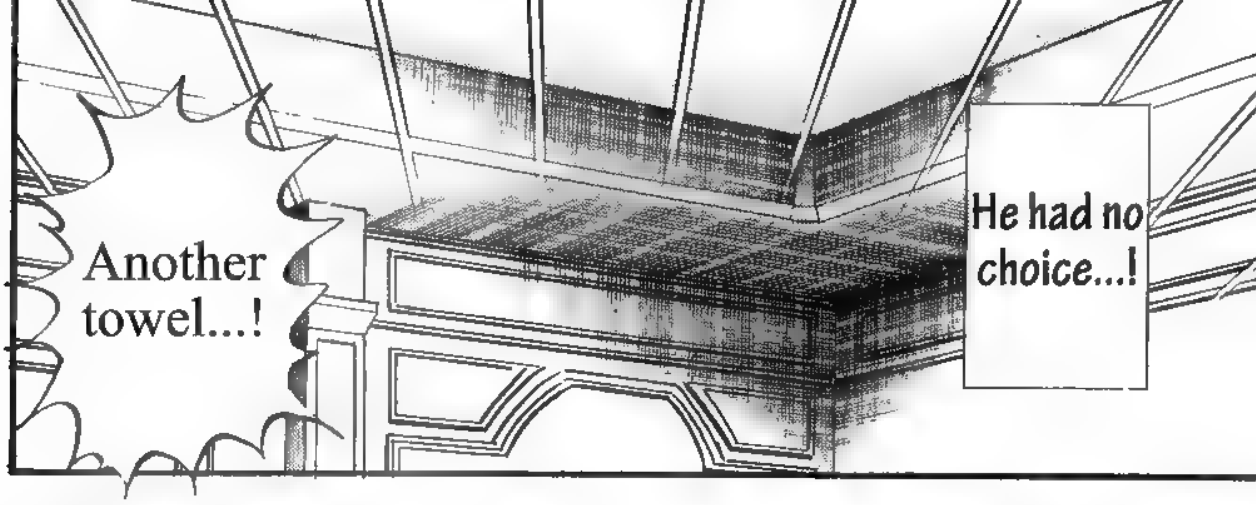

To start over ...!
You can use this money to pay it off...
Think of all...
...the debt you're in.
Then please, don't do it...!

Don't you see ...!?
You can't risk this money on a long shot...!



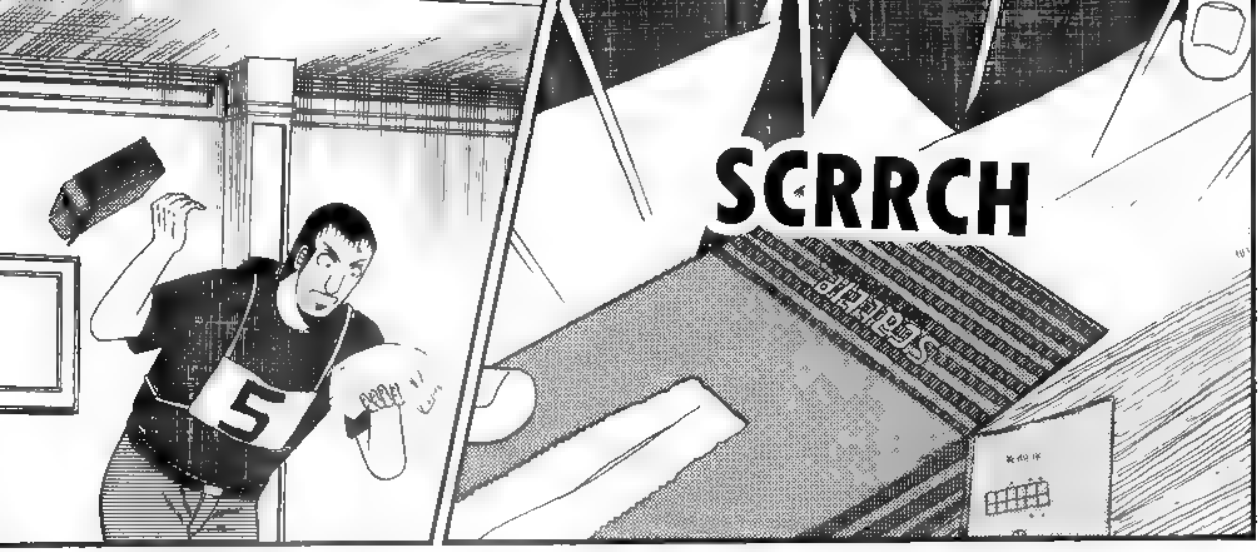
Still...
Kaiji-san ...!
You're right...
.....
But still ...

...Kaiji decided to step down.
Reluctantly ...
This guy's nuts...
Ngh ...!
.....


Another towel...!
He had no choice...!

Lots of them...!
Okay ...!
The tissues ...!
Then bring those...
They used them all to cool off Tonegawa ...
There's none left ...!
What ...!?

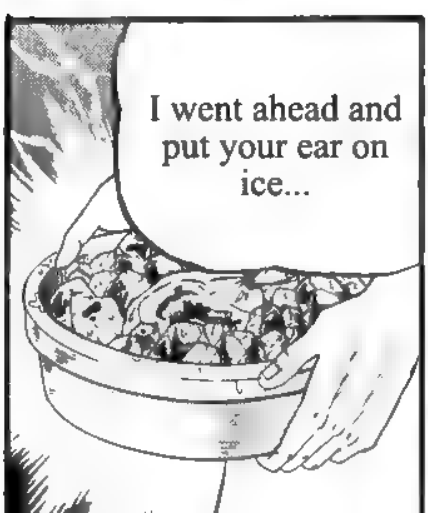
You idiot ...!
RIP
Give that to me ...!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP


SCRRCH

This might sting a little...
WHOOOSH

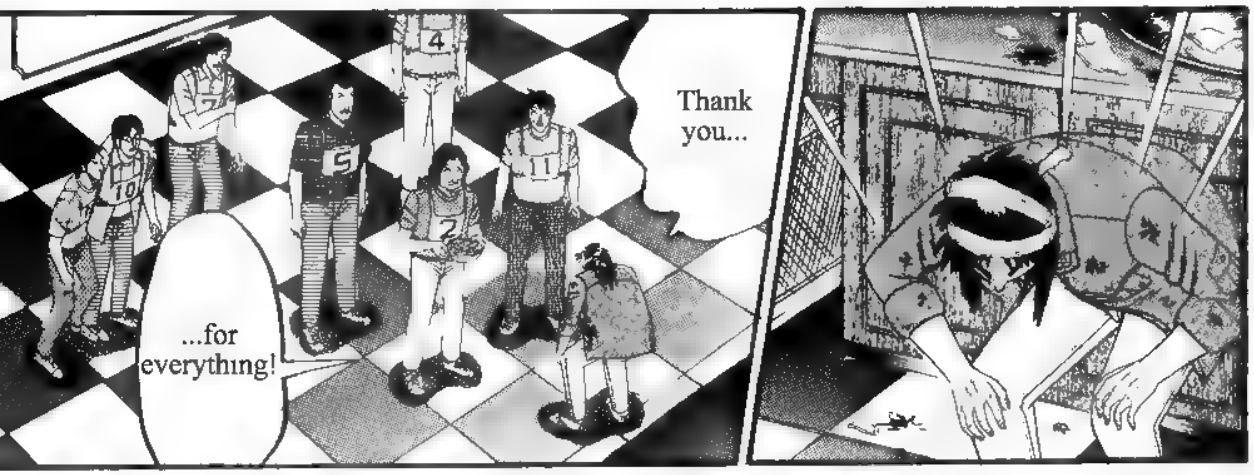
...from Kaiji's ear!
...they did what they could to staunch the flow of blood...
Using the kit ...
I brought the first aid kit...!

It's not ideal...
...but I think it should do...
.....


I went ahead and put your ear on ice...

Umm ...

Everybody ...
If we go now they can probably still reattach it...!
We should get to the hospital ...


...for everything!
Thank you...

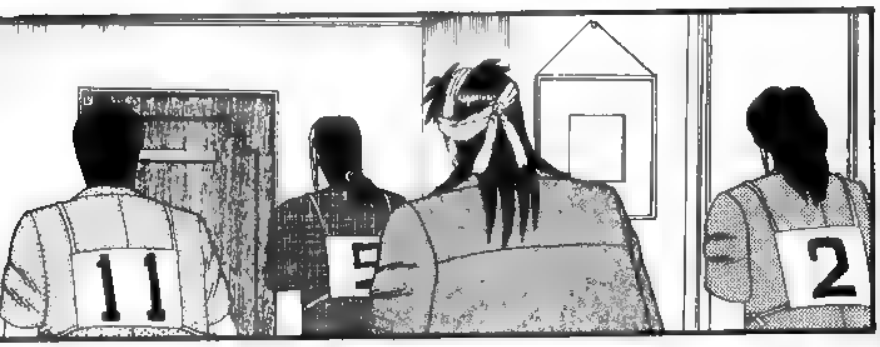
And besides ...
It's only normal to do this much...!
What are you talking about...!?
Kaiji-san ...!
Thank you all so much ...

.....
You really did it...
Yeah ...!
You just struck a blow for all of us...!
We're all happy that you did what you did...!
That's right...!

Amazing ...!
You were amazing, Kaiji-san ...!

SMOOSH
Okay ...!?
.....
Now let's get out of here already...
.....

10
10
11
5
2
39

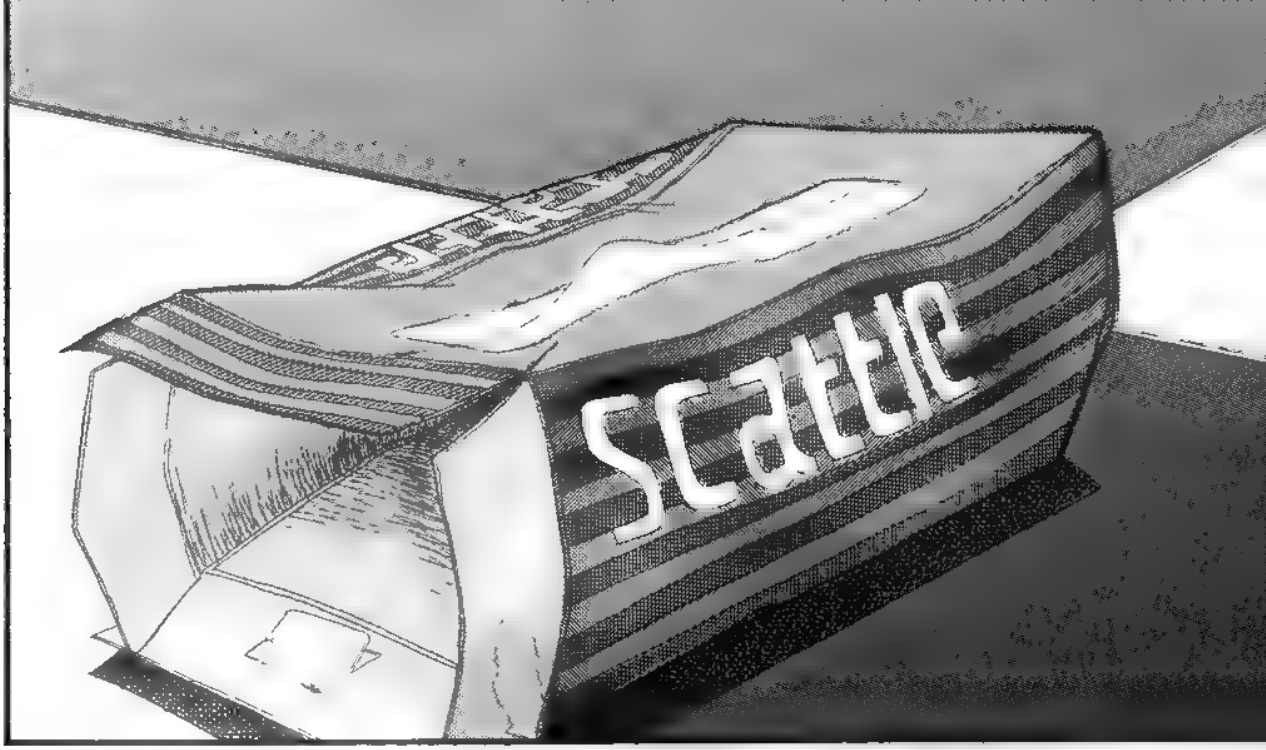

11
5
2

Let's go...
5
2

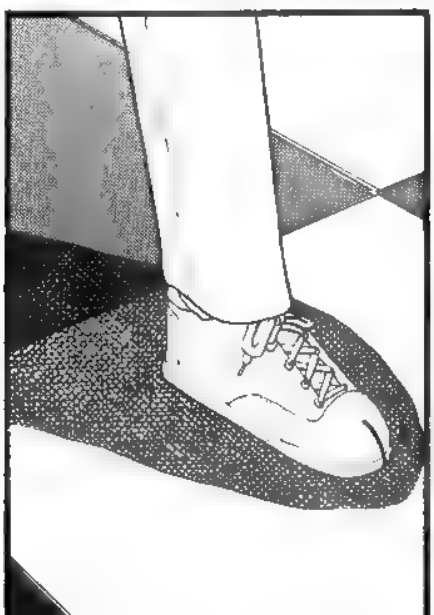
In that moment ...

...it caught his eye!

# Chapter 139: Structure


Seattle

?
2



Kaiji-san
...
38

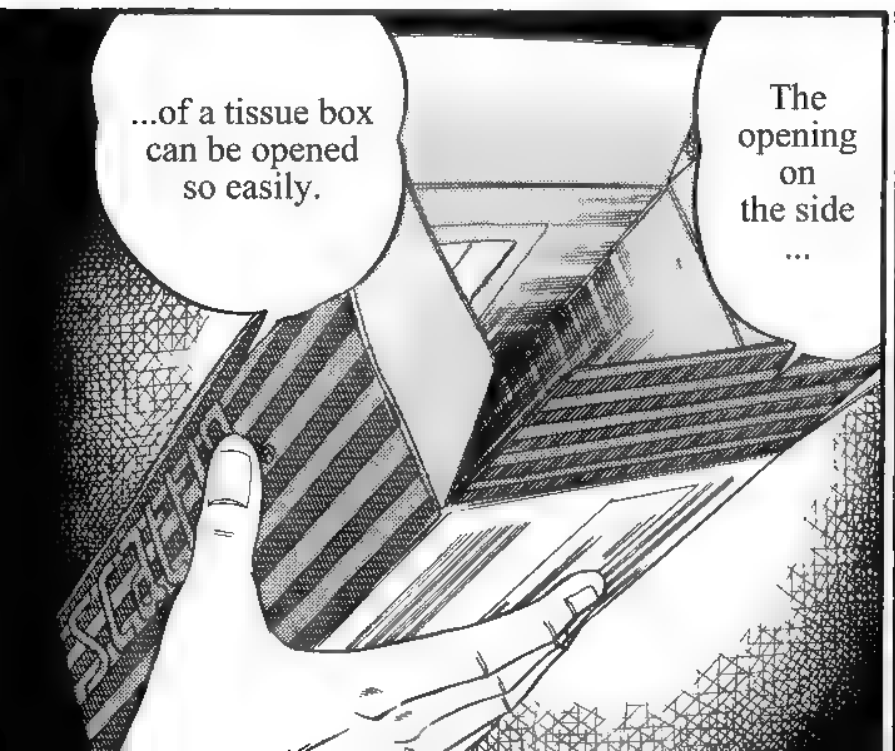
Seattle

5
2
11
7

Kaiji-san...

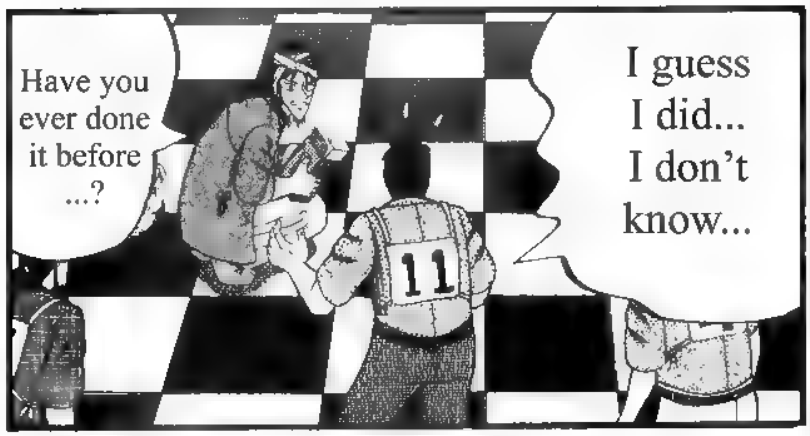
Did you know about this...?

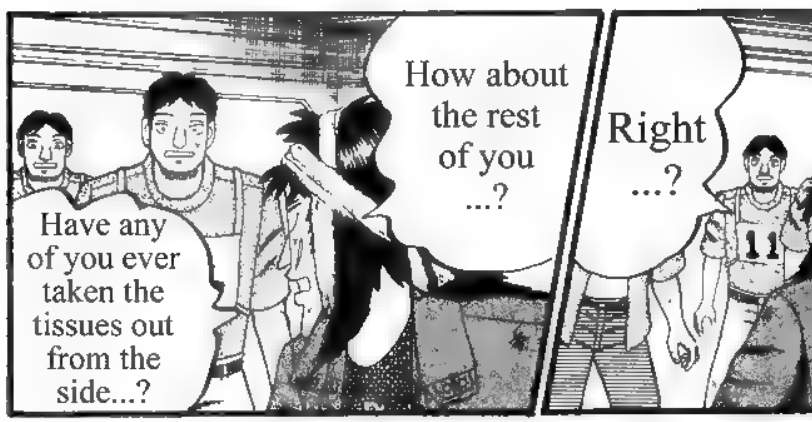
What is it...?


...of a tissue box can be opened so easily.
The opening on the side ...

The opening on the side.
This what ...?

I ...
Did you know that ...?


Have you ever done it before ...?
I guess I did... I don't know...


Have any of you ever taken the tissues out from the side...?
How about the rest of you ...?

Right ...?
Well, no ...

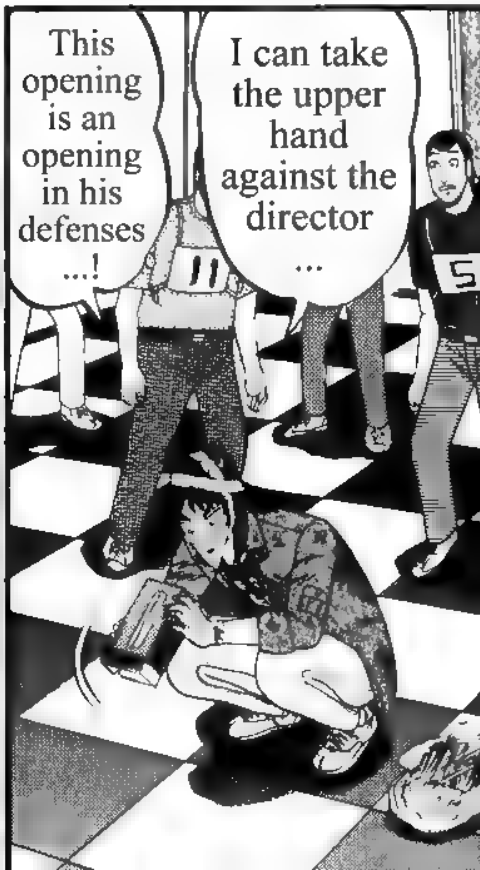
Me ...?
Why did you know to do that ...?

ざわ...
ざわ...
ざわ...

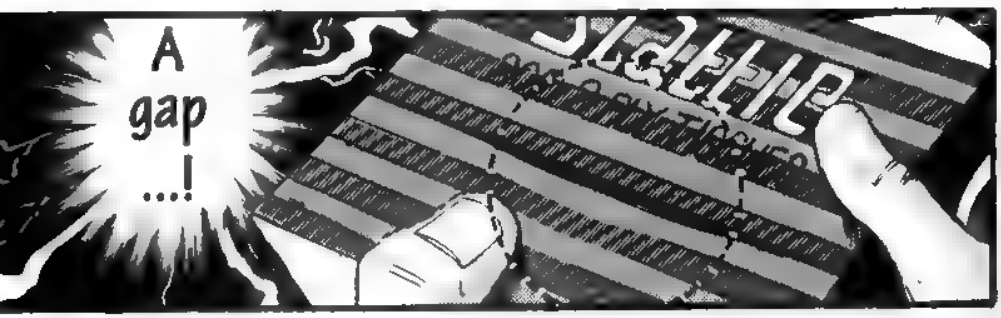
.....
...
once before, I had to hand out tissues to everybody in a hurry...
I mean ...
I'm not sure ...
Hmph ...
...
about the opening on the side.
In other words, most people would never even think ...
Unless you had to...
Of course ...
...most people wouldn't open the box this way.
If I put this opening to good use ...
You see ...
...
even notice it.
They would never ...

...I can outsmart him!

.....
Huh ...?
.....

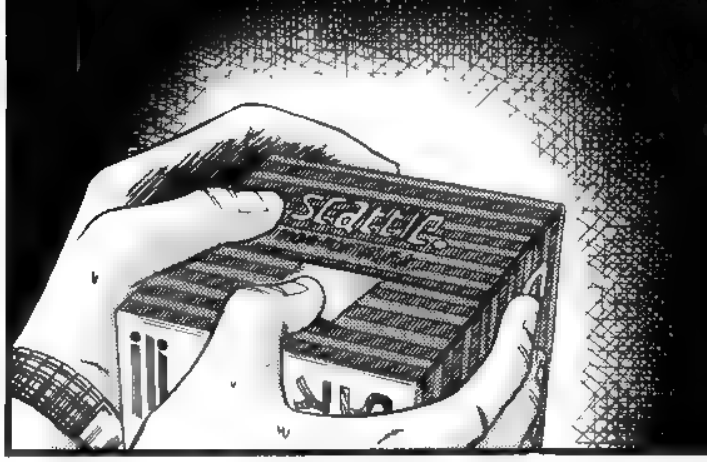

This opening is an opening in his defenses ...!
I can take the upper hand against the director ...

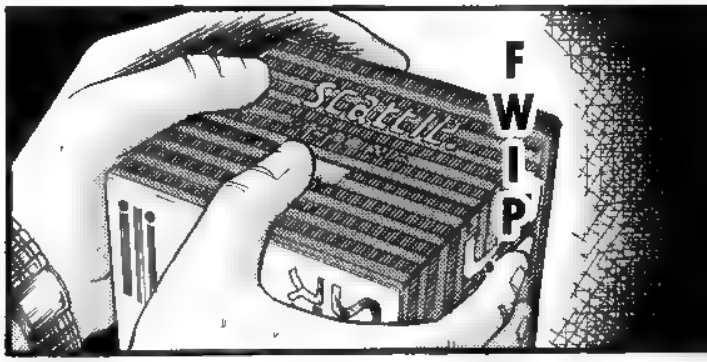
SEATTLE


A gap ...!
SEATTLE

Hold on a sec...
...if you press lightly it opens!
Even when the box is closed ...

Ahh ...!


Scatch


Scatch
F
W
I
P

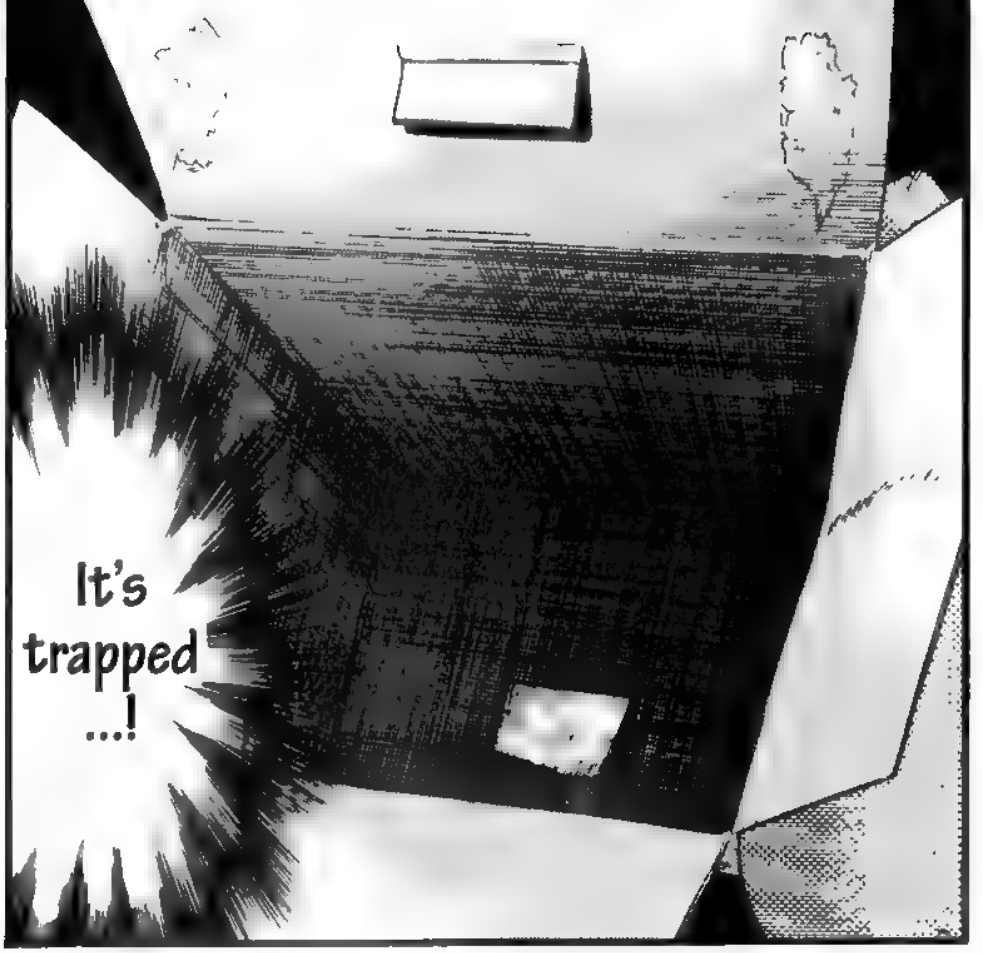
?
?
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

It's in...!

It doesn't come loose ...!
The slip doesn't fall out so easily ...!

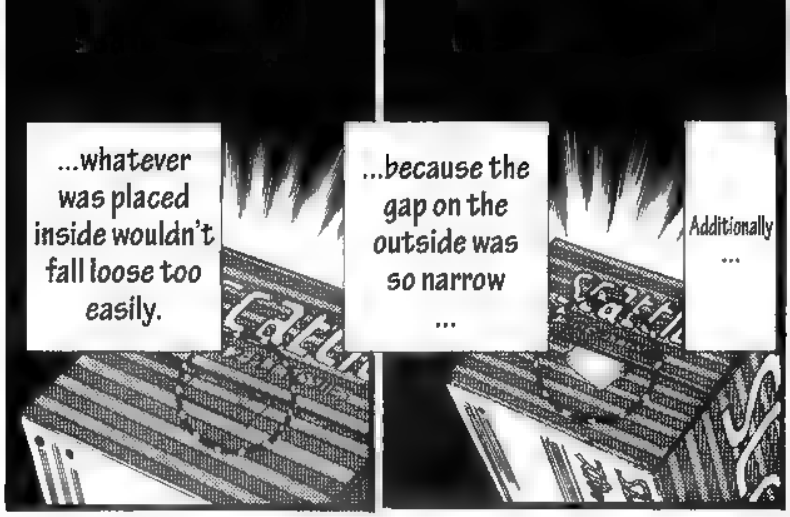
It doesn't fall out ...!

Hold on a sec ...!
FLIP
That means

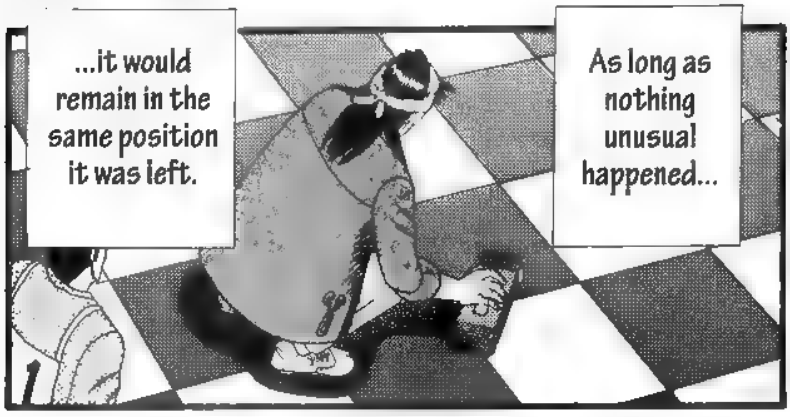


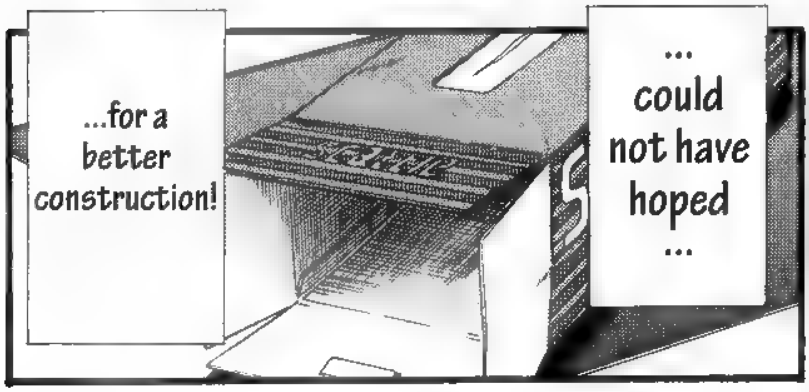
...it gets stuck inside!

This is great ...!
It's trapped ...
...but you can pull it loose!
You can pull it...
... loose!
1
This side of the box...
Who knew a tissue box was constructed this way ...!?
...it would appear then from inside...
As a result, if something were to be placed in this gap...
These two facts were vital.
... meaning ...
...but one side was shorter than the others.
...was glued loosely shut...
... there was a clear space left over.
Even when closed ...


...whatever was placed inside wouldn't fall loose too easily.
...because the gap on the outside was so narrow ...
Additionally ...

...it could be removed from the inside!


...it would remain in the same position it was left.
As long as nothing unusual happened...


...for a better construction!
... could not have hoped ...

Kaiji ...
2
WOBBLE

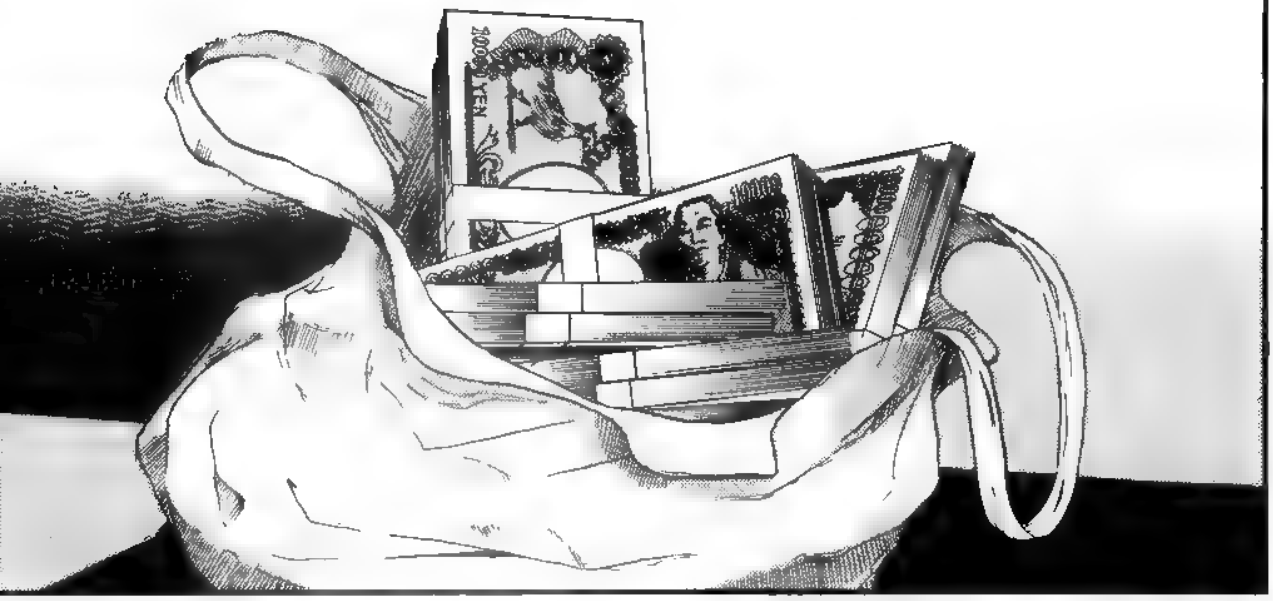
...this box had the best possible setup for him!
In fact ...

PACE
?
?

PACE
PACE
PACE

This box is incredible ...!
This is an incredible discovery ...!
Incredible...!

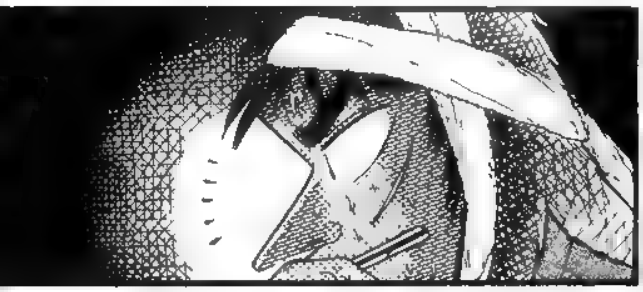
I need to find one more thing in my favor...!
I still need something else ...!
Something else...
...it's still not enough.
But ...
It's gotta be something which was out there ...
Something resembling paper...!
...but is also in here.



It's no good ...!
Money has serial numbers on it...!
10000
NV604655Z

Money's no good...!

SHAKE
SHAKE



Something ...!

There has to be...
... something better!

Ahh
...!
End of Chapter 139

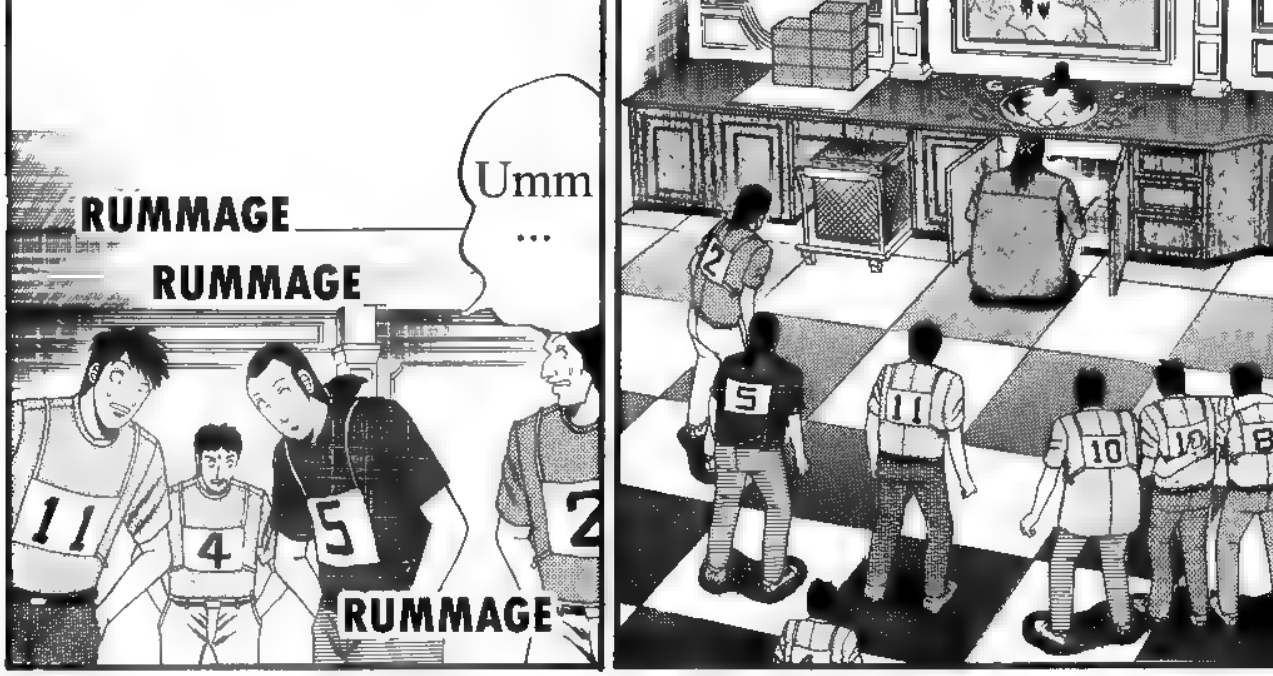
# Chapter 140: Exposition

R S

JERK
10

Ahh ...!
I found them ...!

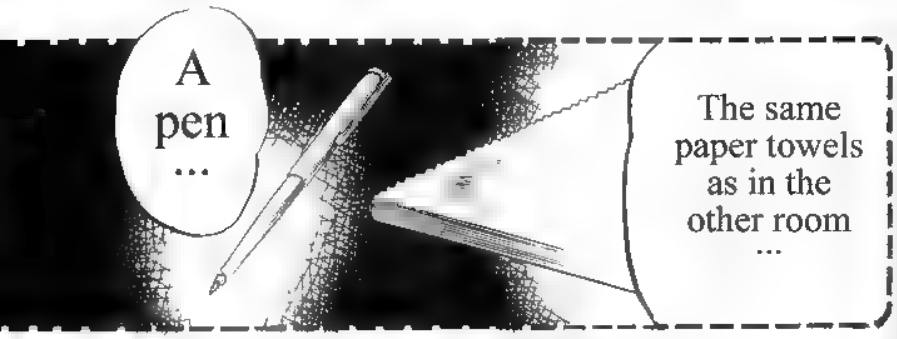
...that Tonegawa was using.
It's the same paper towels ...
The same ones ...
ざわ...
The same ones ...!
...to write with?
...have anything ...
Does anybody ...
Kaiji-san ...?


RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
Umm
...

I've got a pen ...!
.....
Ahh ...!

Then that's everything ...!

10
4

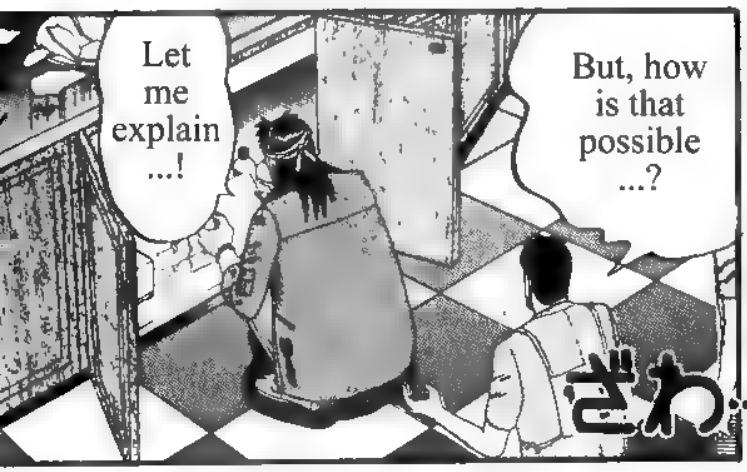

A pen ...
The same paper towels as in the other room ...

With these three things ...
And the tissue box ...
...I've got it all!

Huh ...?
4
10
10
I've got everything I need...

38
AMU

Everything I need to defeat the director!!!


Let me explain ...!
But, how is that possible ...?
ざわ…

ざわ…ざわ
10
11

THUNK

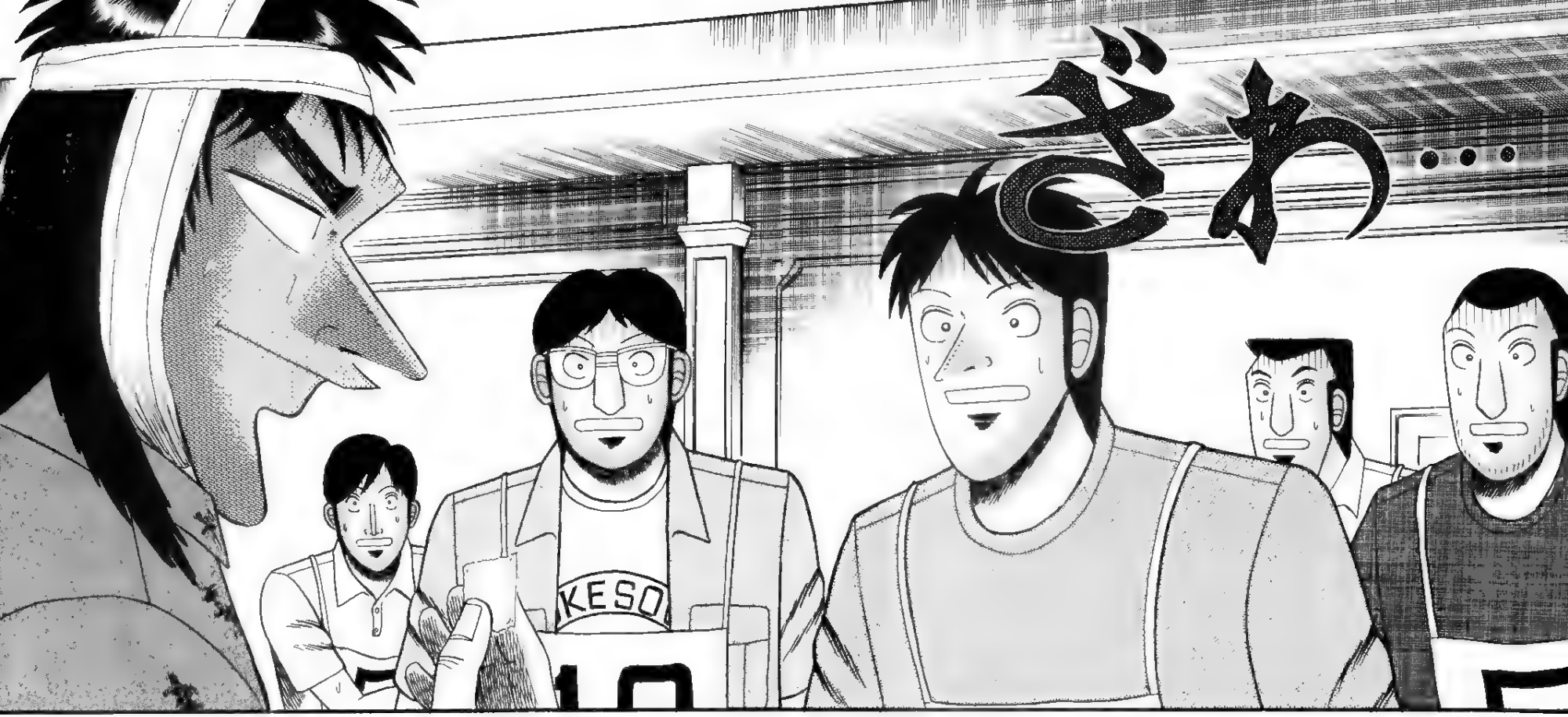
?
?
38
2

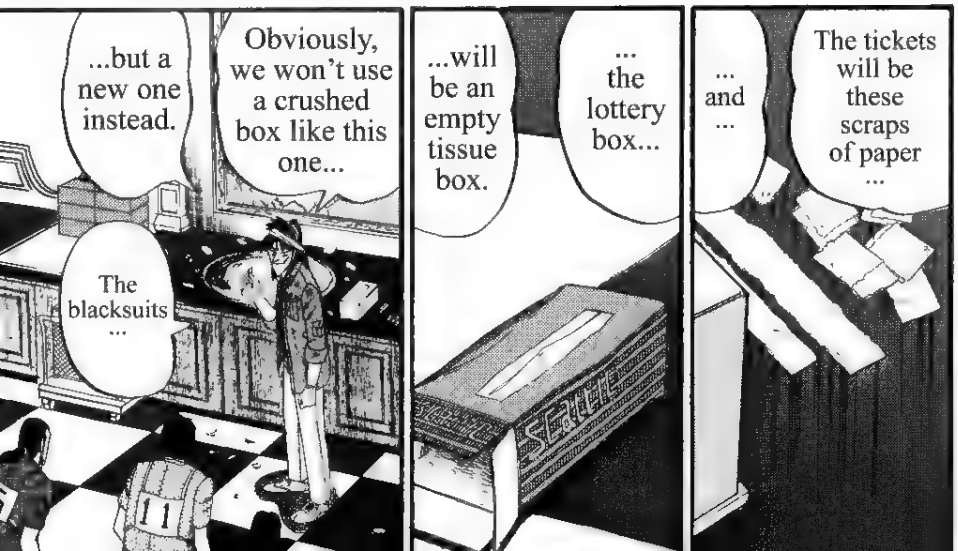
RRRIPPPP
?
?

When we return to the other room ...
Hmph...
Eh ...?

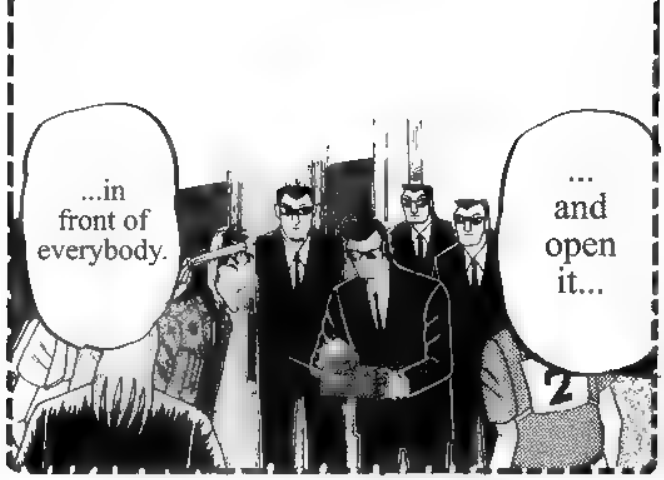
The game ...
...I'm going to suggest a new game to the director.
In other words ...
...will use these slips of paper.
RIP
RIP
RIP

...it will be a lottery!

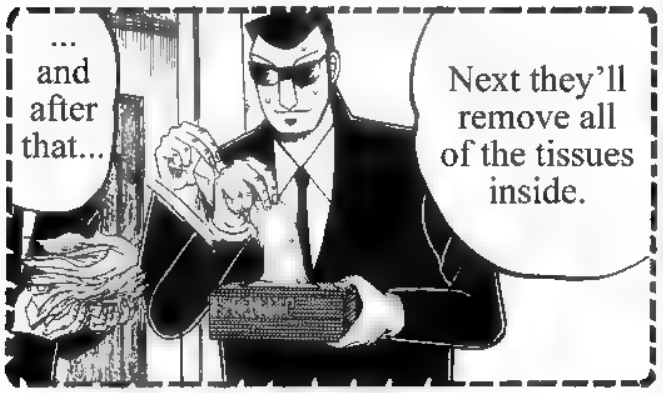

ざわ
KESO


...but a new one instead.
Obviously, we won't use a crushed box like this one...
The blacksuits ...
...will be an empty tissue box.
... the lottery box...
... and ...
The tickets will be these scraps of paper ...

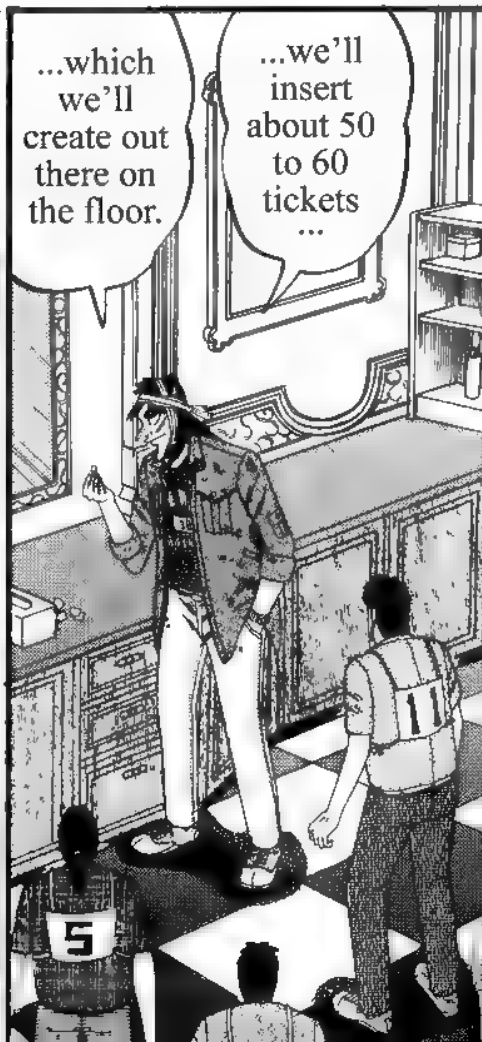
...and the first to draw the right lot will be the winner.
We'll each take turns drawing tickets...
No game could be simpler.
Hmph ...
Huh ...?


...in front of everybody.
... and open it...
2

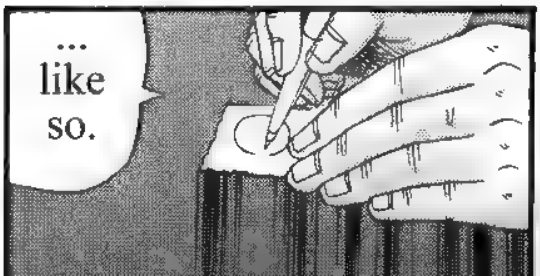
...from the bathroom ...
...will bring in a new box...


... and after that...
Next they'll remove all of the tissues inside.

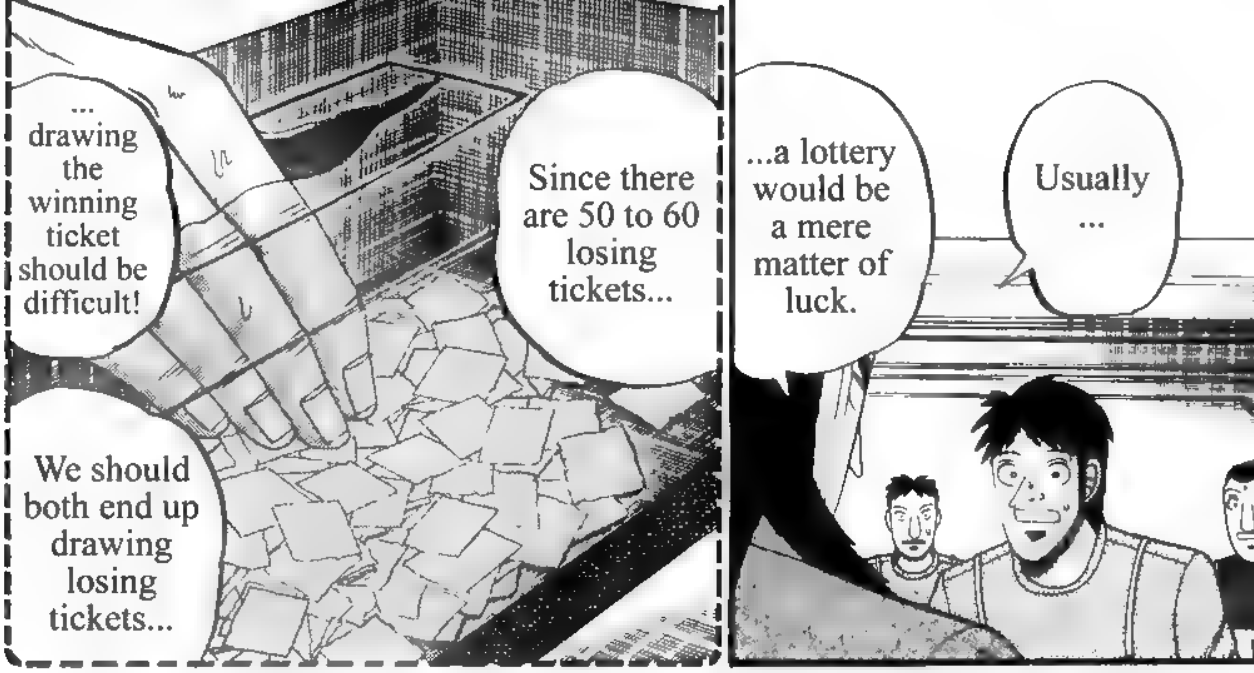
Only one of ticket ...


...which we'll create out there on the floor.
...we'll insert about 50 to 60 tickets ...
5

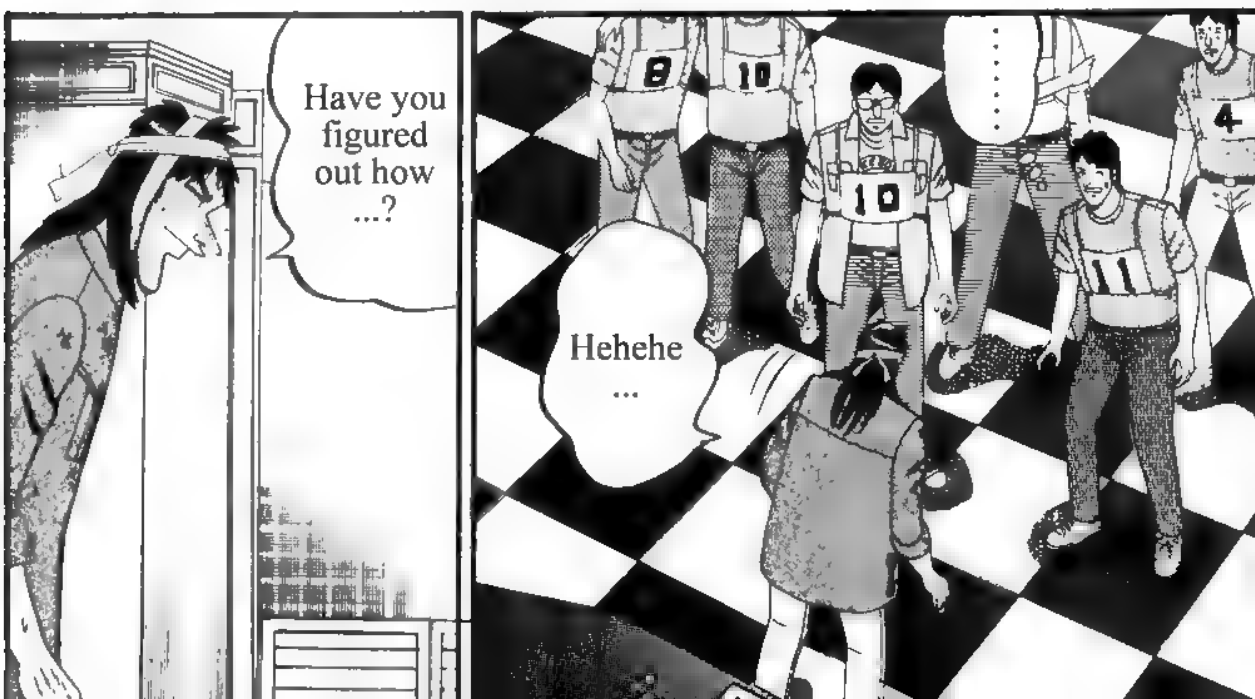
...a winning mark...
... will have ...


... like so.

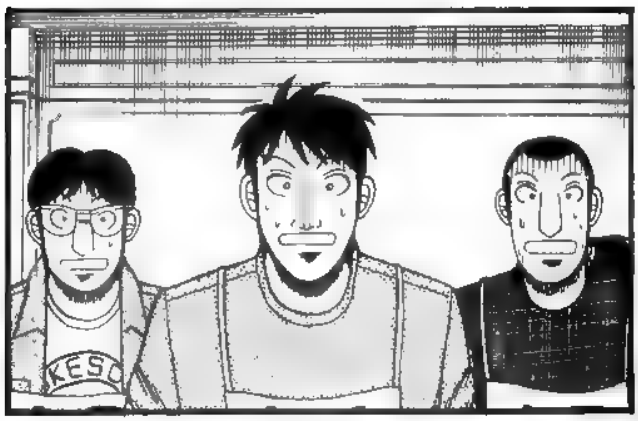
Hmph ...
Ahh ...?
It's simple ...!
So simple that it barely needs explaining ...!
...will be the winner.
The first one to draw this mark...


... drawing the winning ticket should be difficult!
Since there are 50 to 60 losing tickets...
We should both end up drawing losing tickets...
...a lottery would be a mere matter of luck.
Usually ...

...at the very start of the game!
However ...
That's the natural progression ...
...I'm going to draw it immediately ...

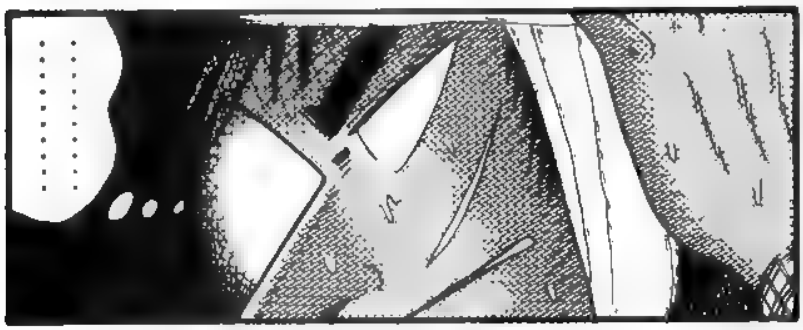

Have you figured out how ...?
Hehehe ...
.....

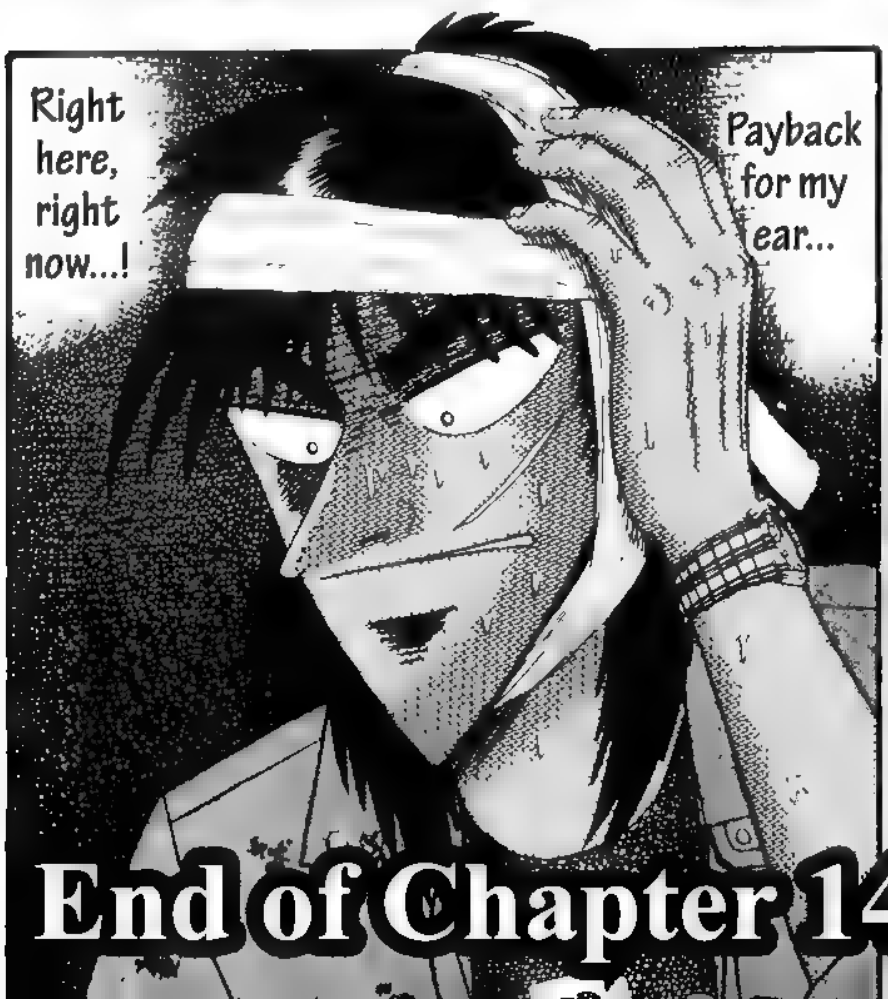
I'll plant fake tickets...
...in every one of these boxes!
By planting tickets in advance ...
...here and now, in the bathroom!
.....
...so that they poke through on the inside.
I'll just slip the winning tickets in there...
...it's unlikely that anyone notices the openings on the side.
You see ...
...I'll grab the ticket for myself!
Then, when my turn is up...



It's a surefire bet ...!

But... But...
Hmph ...
Eh ...?
ざわ…
ざわ…
What're you, nuts ...!?
It's not playing fair...!
Huh ...?
Isn't that cheating ...?
Remember ...
...what does it matter if I'm cheating!
Who cares ...!?
When the stakes are this high ...
...they're the ones who did it first!
SLAM



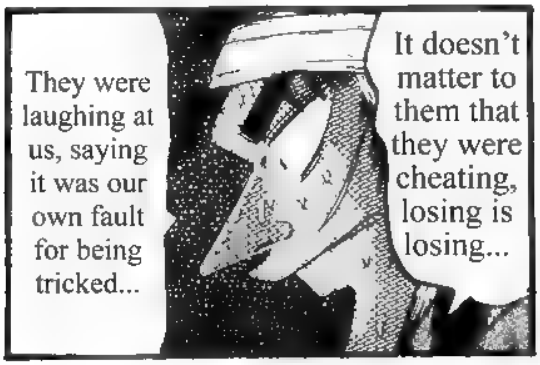



# End of Chapter 140

# Chapter 141: Wicked Ways

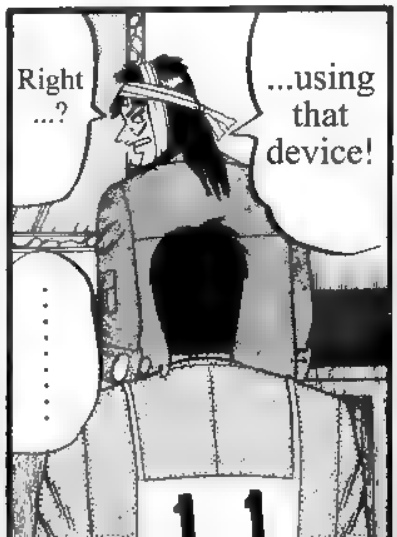
ざわ..
ざわ..
Not "something" ...!
.....
I could have died...
...from start to finish...
...was a scam.
The whole thing ...
...did you mean...
...when you said they did it first ...
ざわ..
.....
That they were cheating ...?
...that they were doing something unfair?
Um ...
11

One wrong move ...
...and I could have died!


They were laughing at us, saying it was our own fault for being tricked...
It doesn't matter to them that they were cheating, losing is losing...

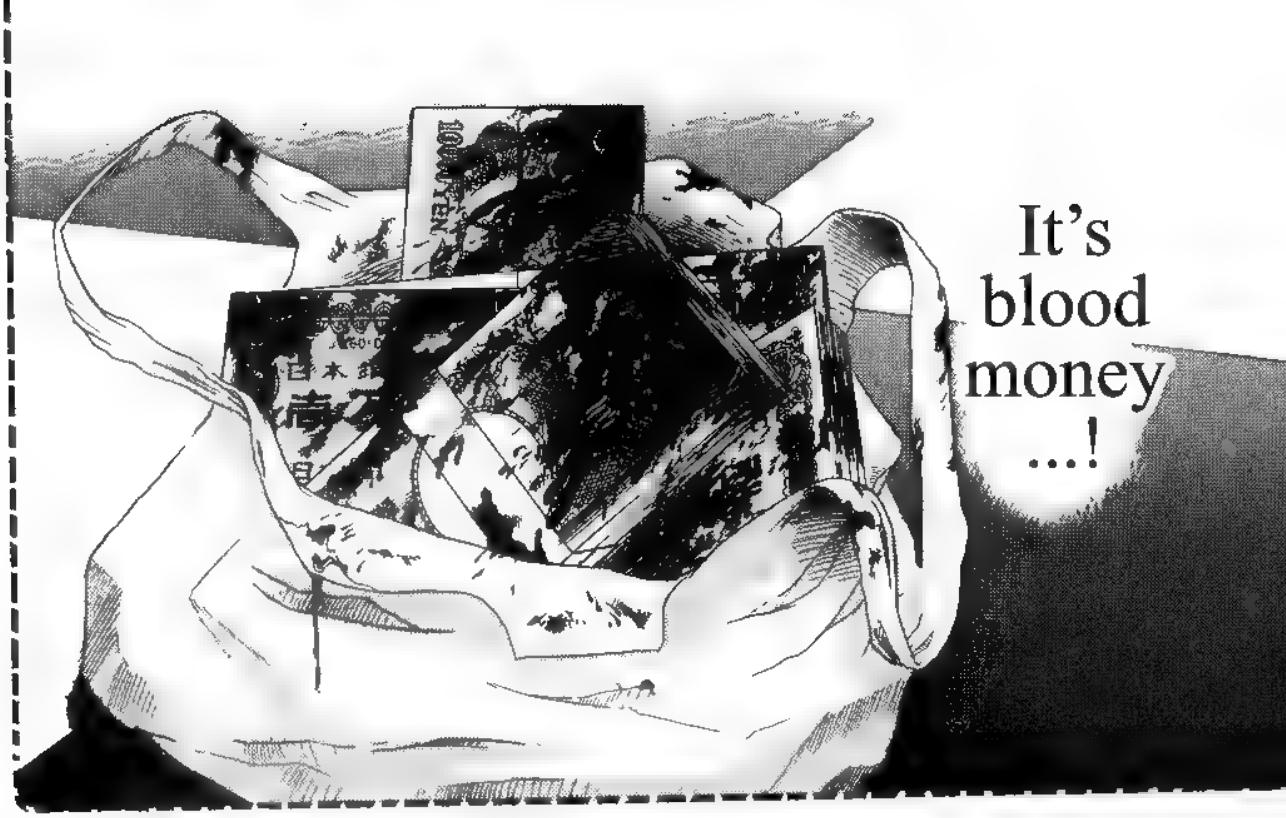
They're completely merciless ...!
I swear .....!

...supposed to play nice and fair?
But we're ...
Can you really sit there and say something so idiotic!?


Right ...?
.....
...using that device!

They would have killed me without a moment's hesitation...

Win ...
By whatever means necessary ...!
We have to win...!
It's only right...
Look at this money ...
...and Sahara and myself...
Ishida-san ...
This money is stained with our blood...


It's blood money ...!

It came at too dear of a cost ...!

...then it's only right that I fix the odds in my favor, 100%!
If I'm gonna do this...
Okay ...
11
Do you see ...!?
11
I can't just squander it and gamble it away...!

I still ...
All the same...
What ...?
But ...
Because ...
Why not ...!?
Huh ...?
...don't think you should do it.
.....
...will be placed inside as well, won't it?
...the real ticket ...
Even if you plant a fake ticket into the side of the box...
Fake
Don't you see...!
That's true, but...

...that he could draw the real ticket on the first round!?
... then isn't it possible ...
If the director draws first...
Yeah ...
.....
That's more than zero ...!
Still ...
But that's only a 1 in 50 or 60 chance...!
That's true...
I can't fix the odds 100% in my favor...!
Not a 100%, then...!
Let me rephrase it...!
Fine ...

There's always going to be some risk involved...!
But still ...
I can't ...
...pass up a chance like this...
...because I'm afraid of such a small risk!

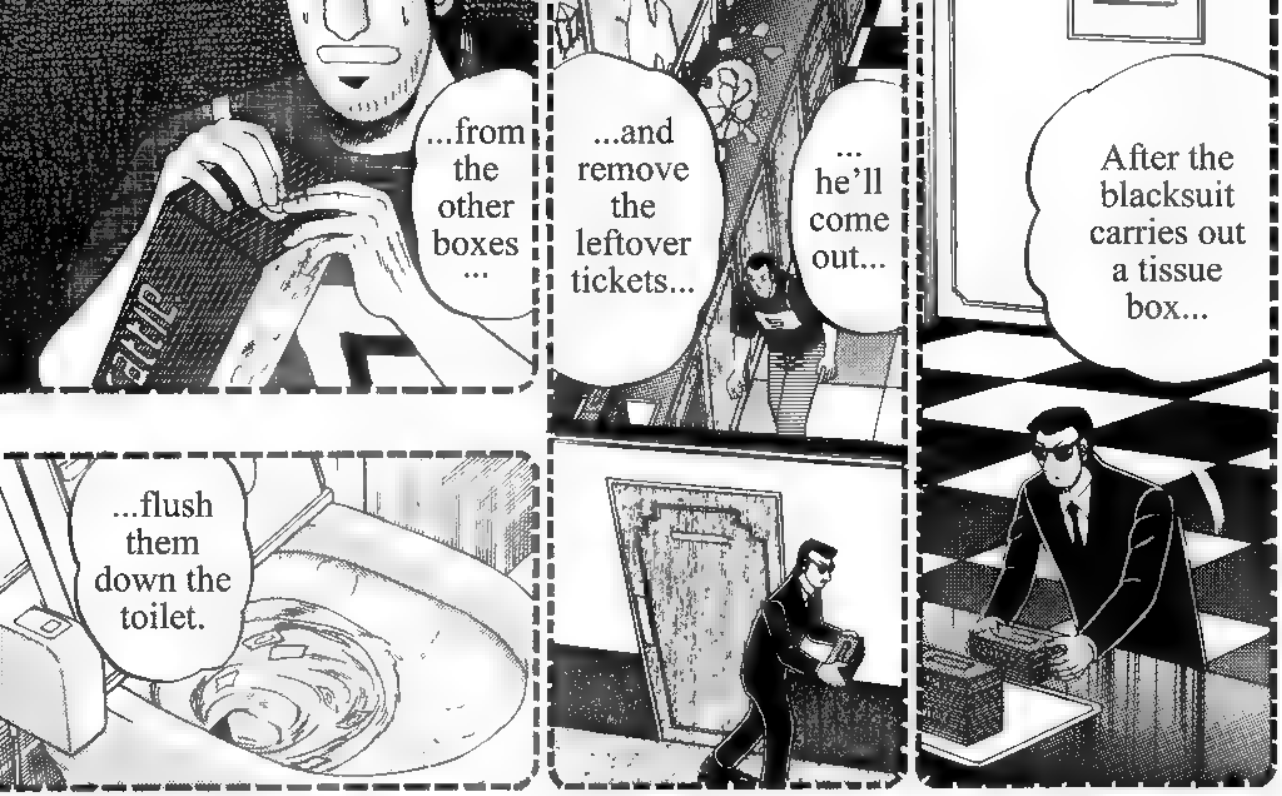
I won't ...!
But ...
If the money came at such cost ...
I know...

But still ...
I have to do this ...!
This is my chance ...!

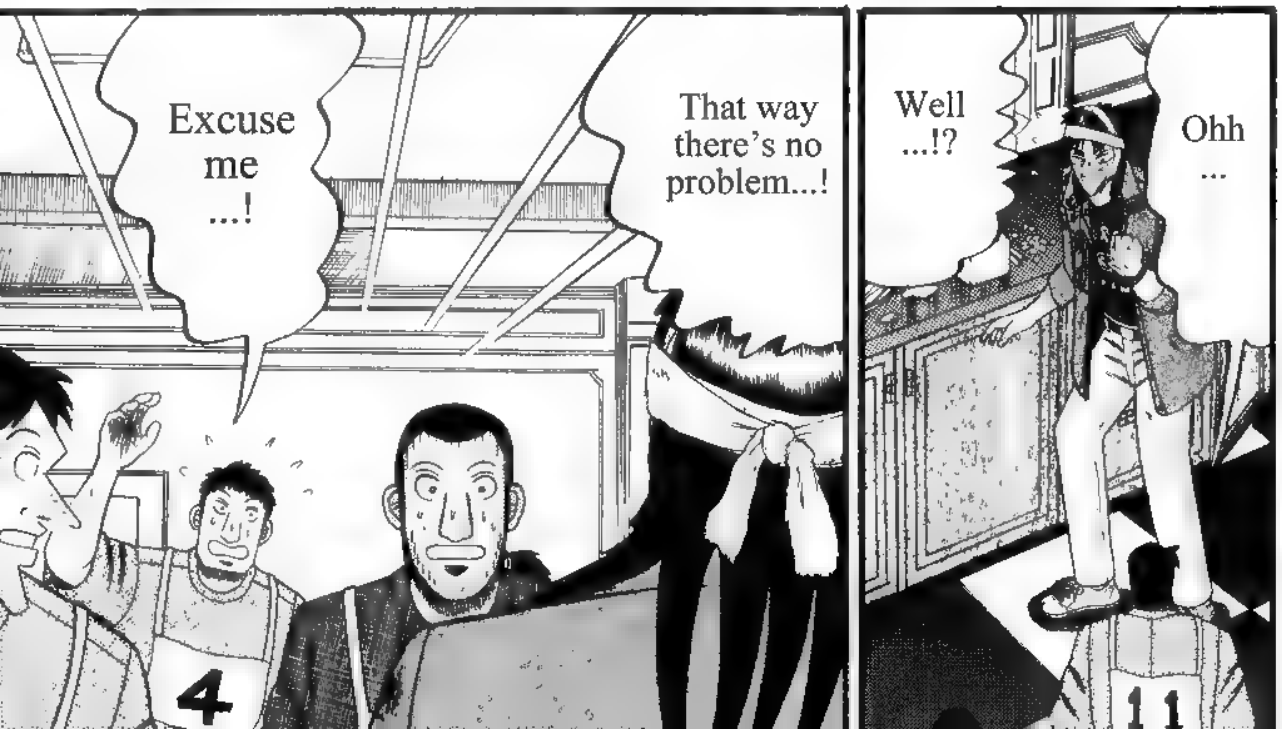
I have to risk it...!
This is it...!

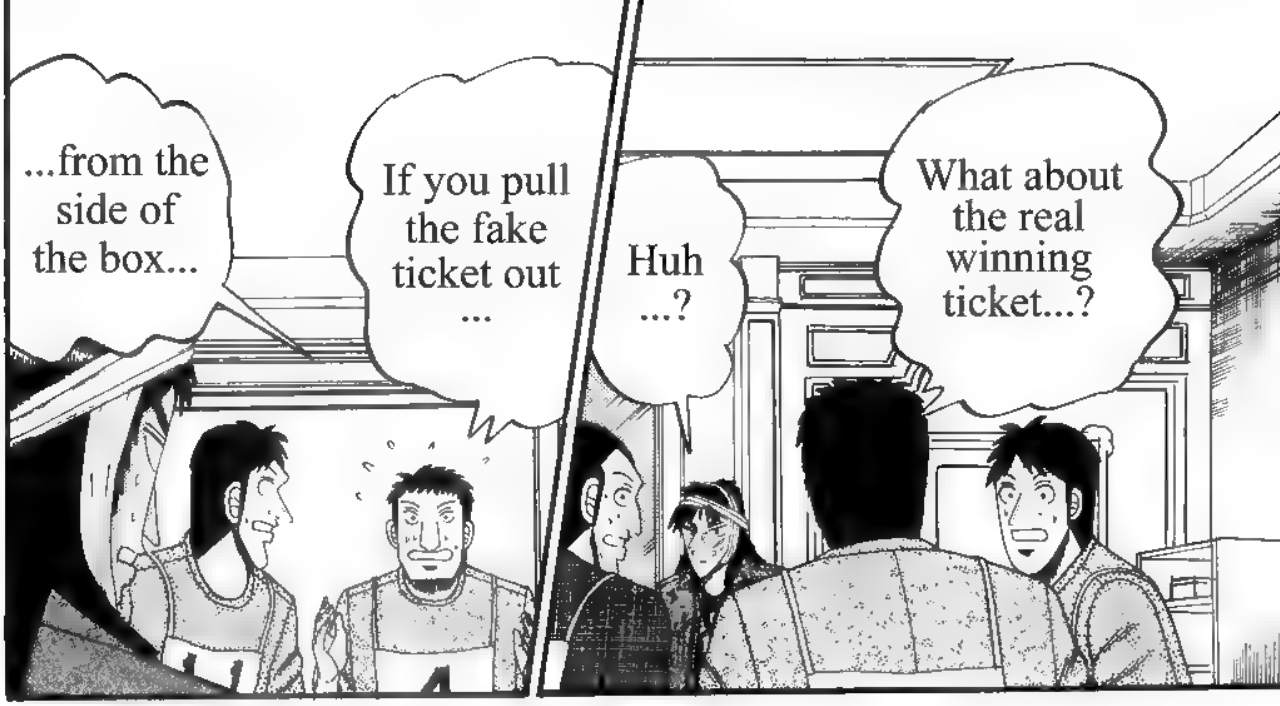
But what ...!?
But...
Eh...!?
...you said you were going to put fake tickets
...but Kaiji-san ...
Alright, alright, fine...
Aren't you listening!? I told you, I have to do this...!
But doesn't that mean ...
I want the blacksuits to pick which box we use...
Yeah ...
...in all of the tissue boxes!
Huh...?
...you'll leave behind proof!?

What if they find...
...one of these tissue boxes, right!?
...left in every single...
There'll still be a winning ticket...
.....
...the leftover tickets!?
...in one of the stalls.
One of you guys will stay behind ...
Huh ...?
We'll leave someone behind ...!
Don't you see...!?

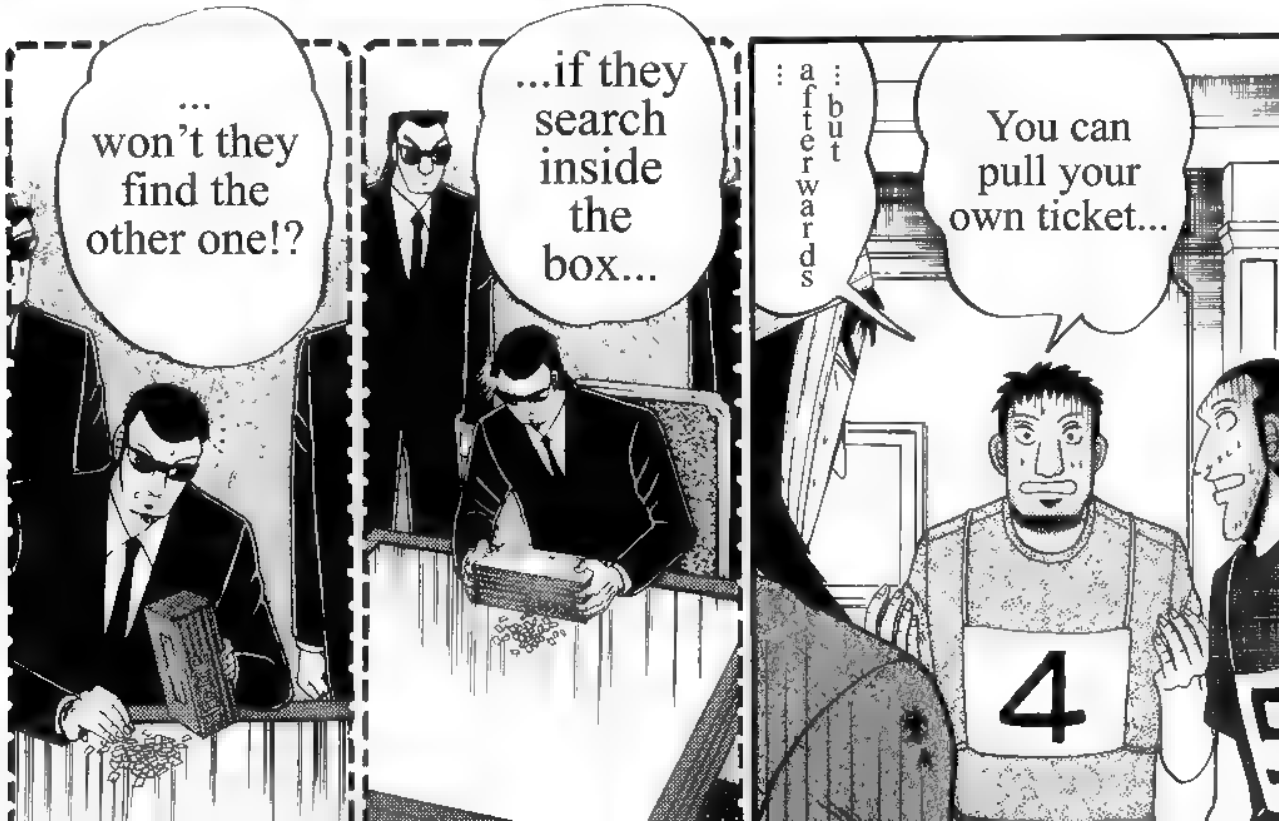

After the blacksuit carries out a tissue box...
... he'll come out...
...and remove the leftover tickets...
...from the other boxes ...
...flush them down the toilet.

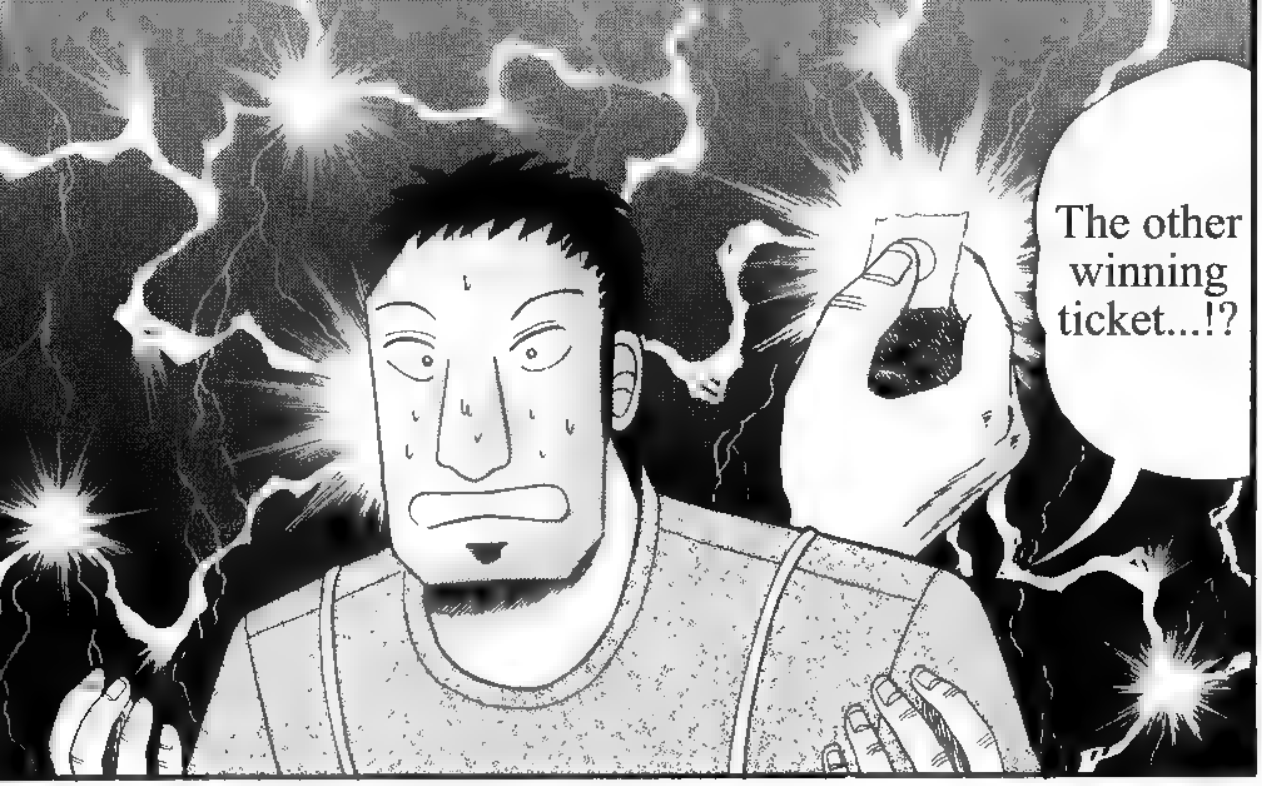
When he comes back out on the floor...
...he can look a little embarrassed, as if he was on the toilet for a long time!


Ohh ...
Well ...!?
That way there's no problem...!
Excuse me ...!
4
11


...from the side of the box...
If you pull the fake ticket out ...
Huh ...?
What about the real winning ticket...?

.....
...still be left inside!?
...won't the real ticket...

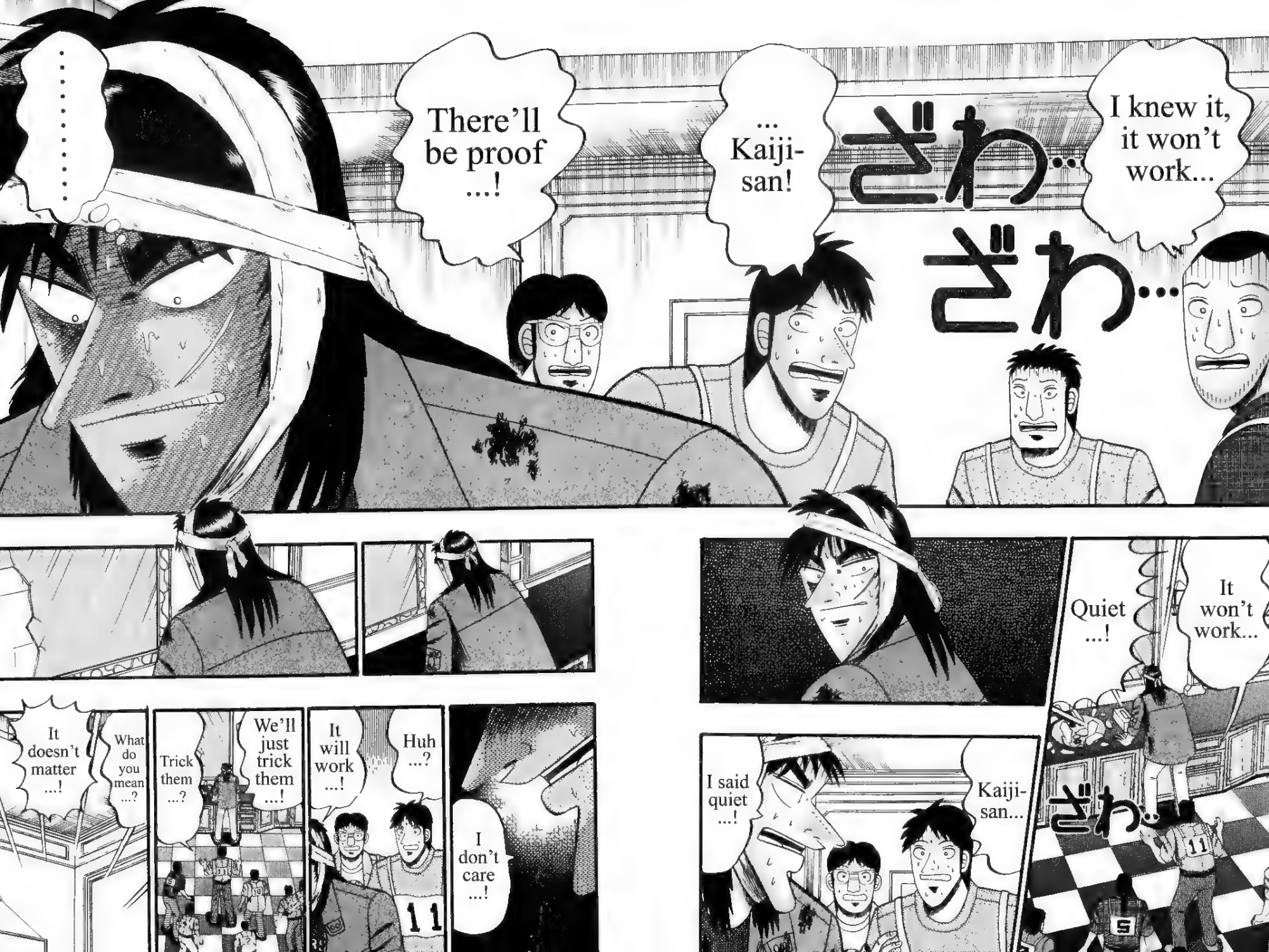

... won't they find the other one!?
...if they search inside the box...
...but afterwards
You can pull your own ticket...
4


The other winning ticket...!?

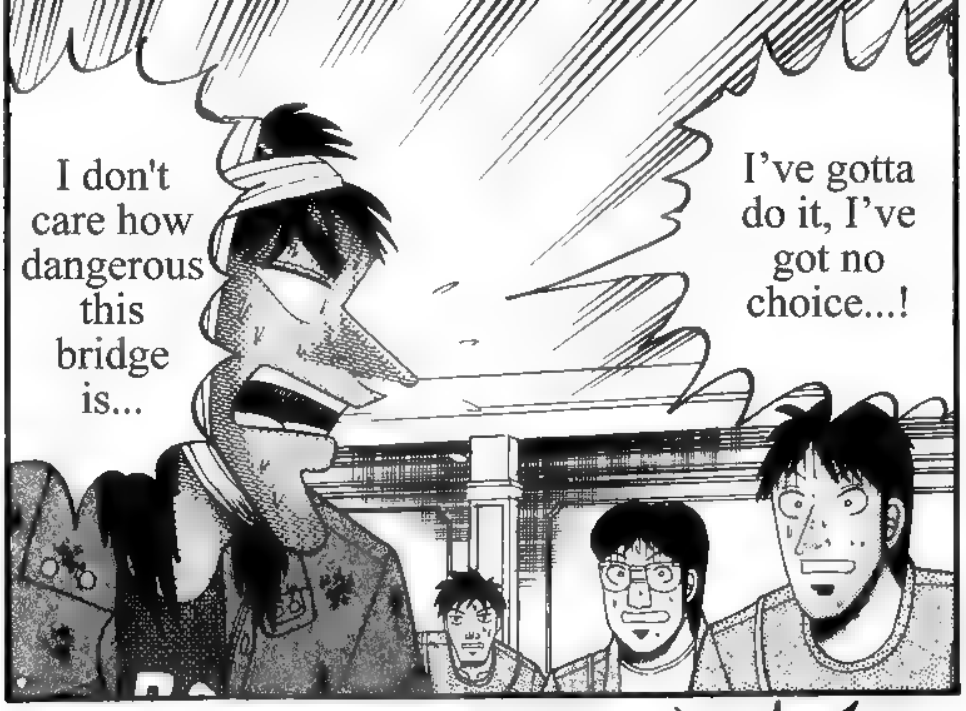
That's right...
ざわ..
ざわ..
That's right ...!
4

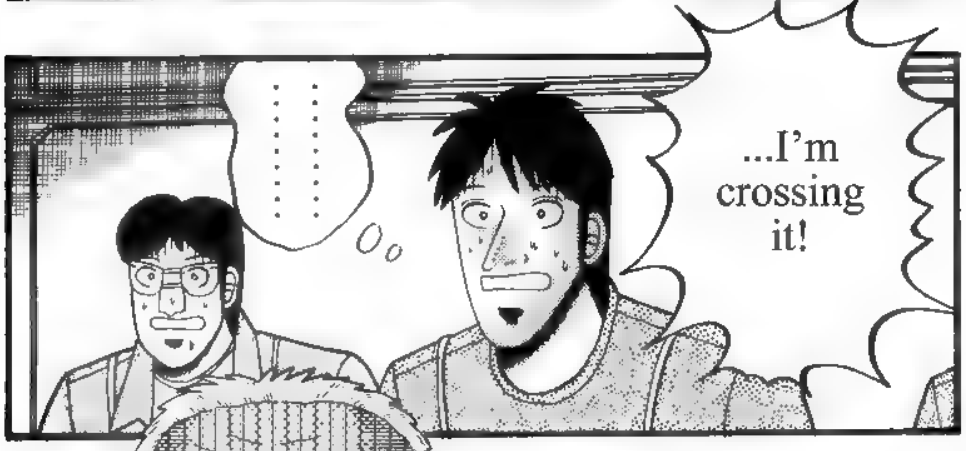
ざわ..
11
4

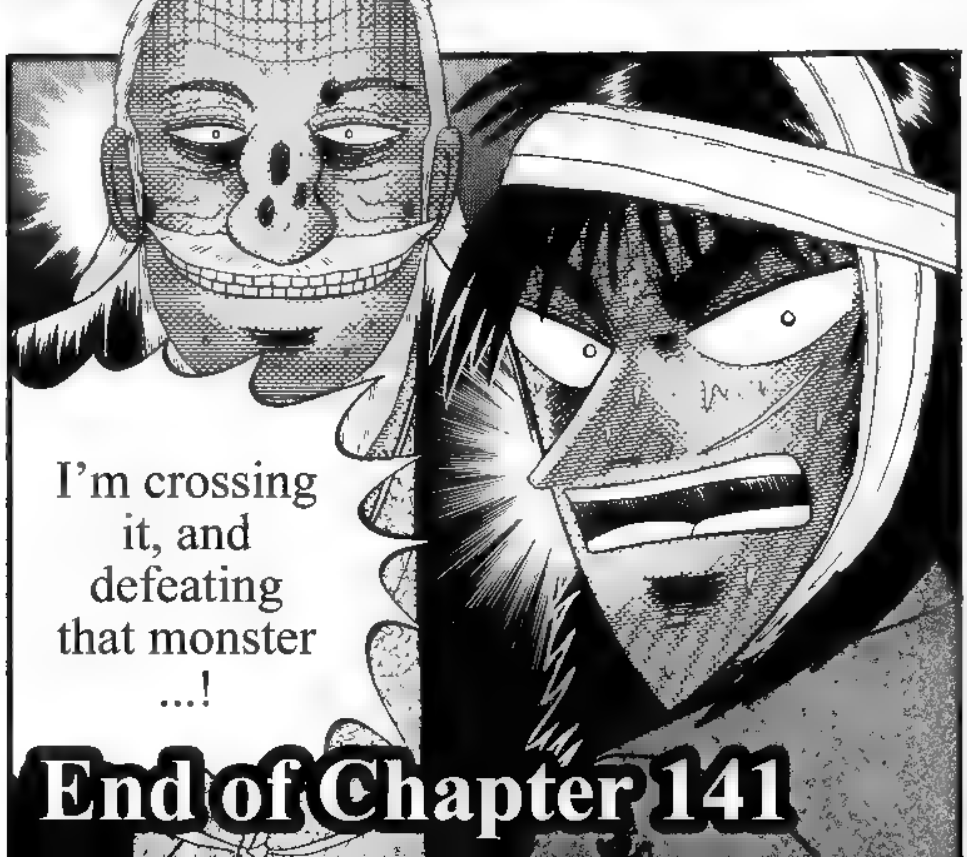
That would look real bad...!
ざわ..
ざわ..
That would look bad...!
ざわ..


.....
There'll be proof ...!
... Kaiji-san!
ざわ..
I knew it, it won't work...
ざわ...
It doesn't matter ...!
What do you mean ...?
Trick them ...?
We'll just trick them ...!
It will work ...!
Huh ...?
I don't care ...!
I said quiet ...!
Kaiji-san...
Quiet ...!
It won't work...
ざわ..

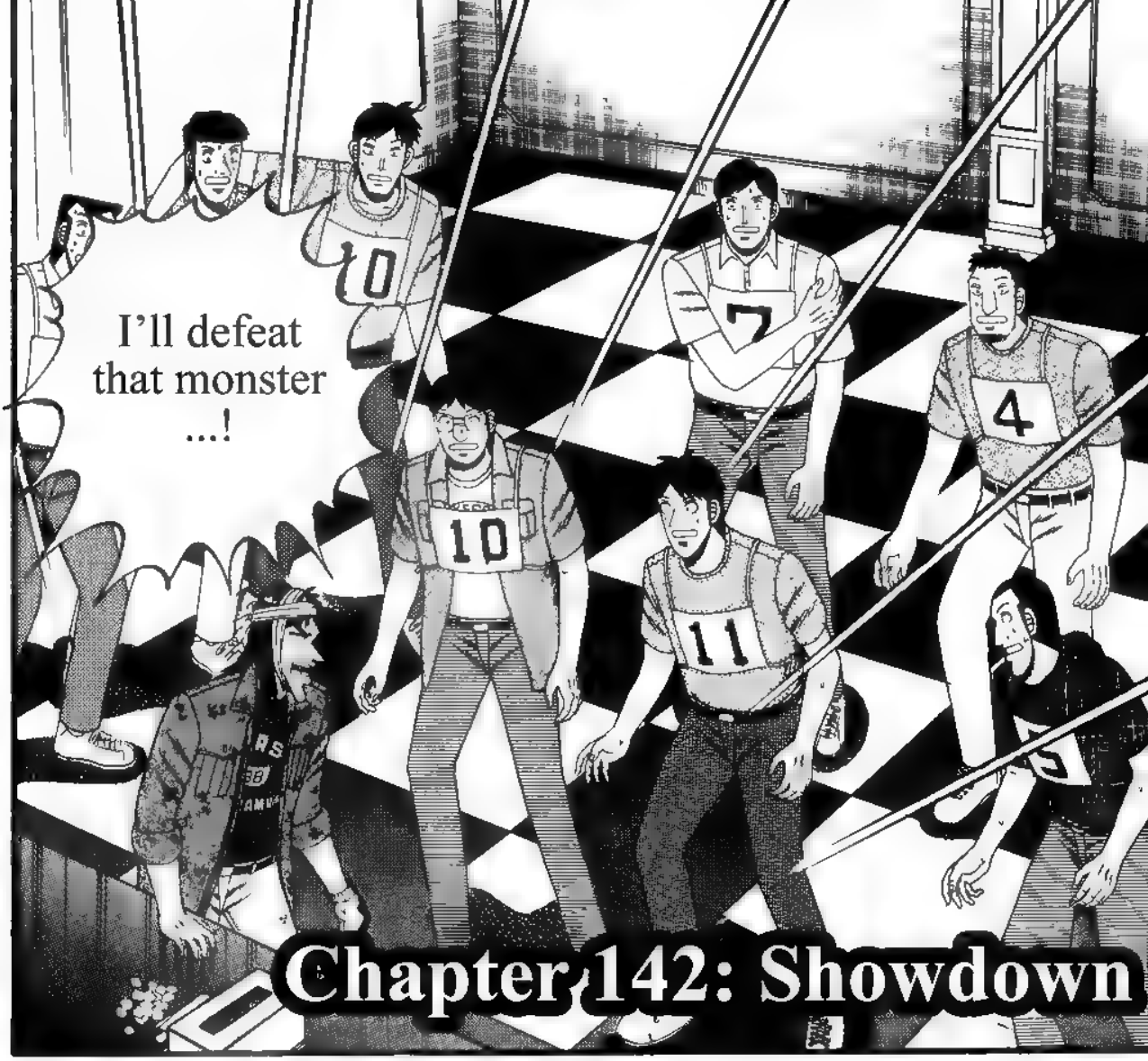
I've come this far, I can't back down now!!!




End of Chapter 141

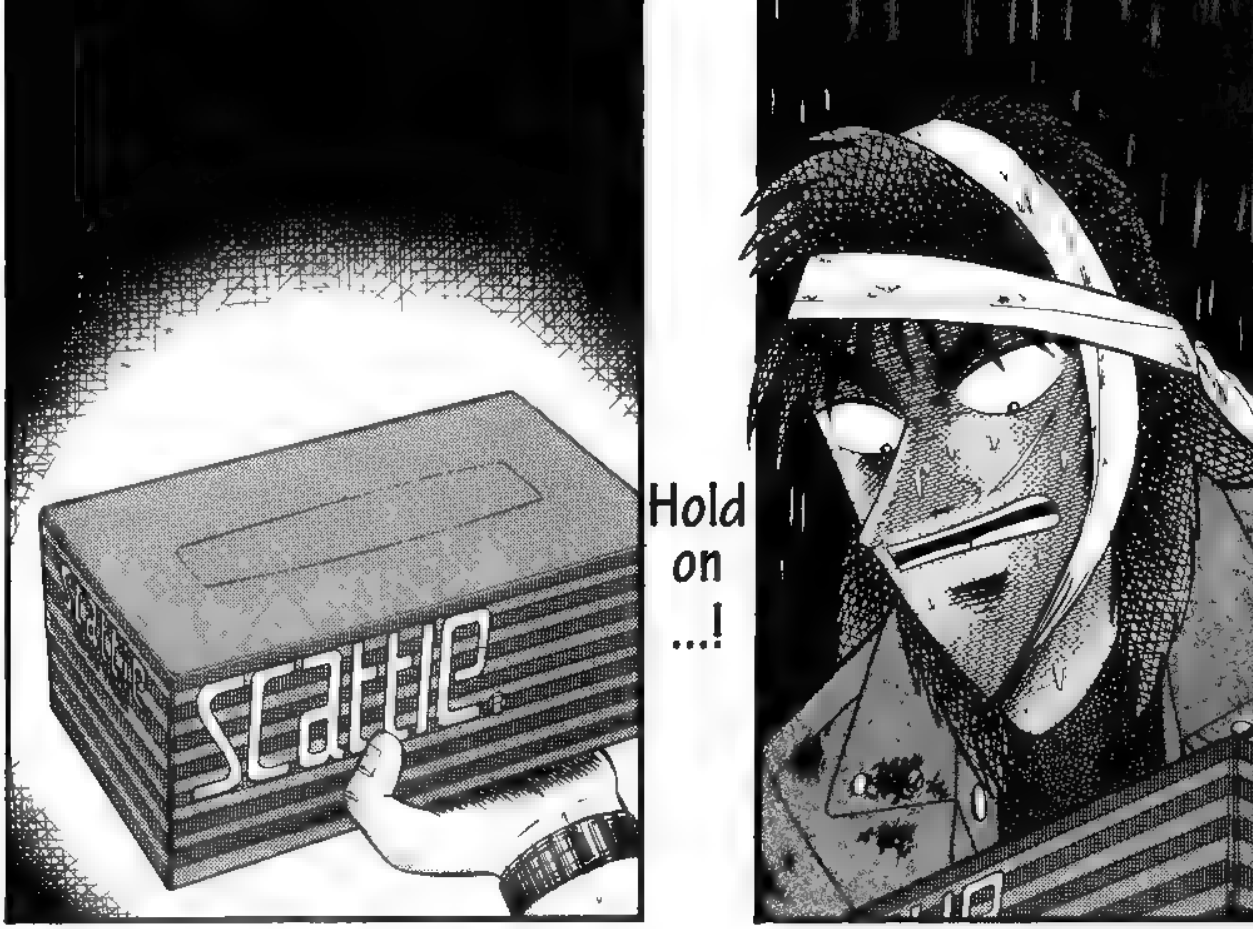

I'll defeat that monster ...!
Chapter 142: Showdown

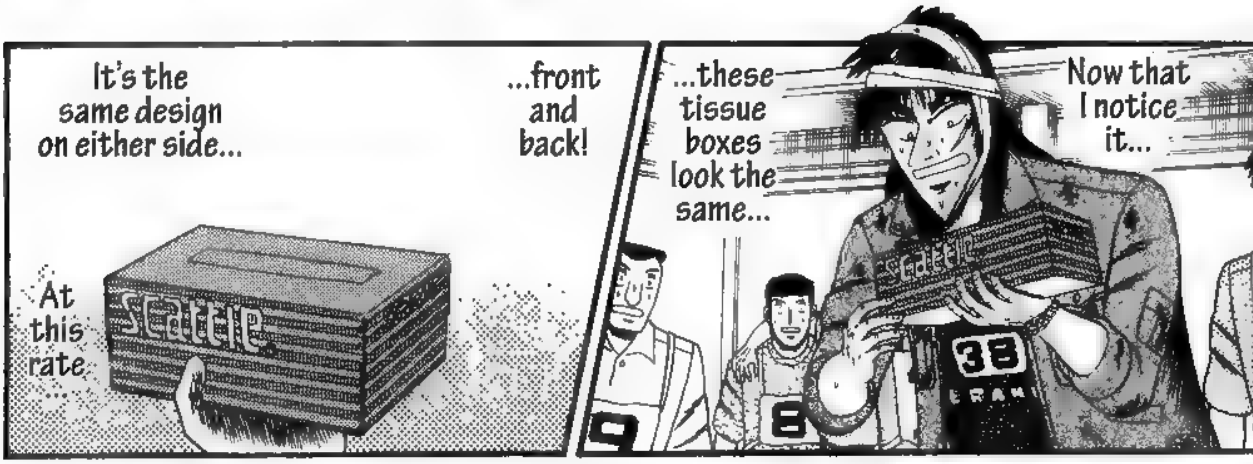
Eh ...?

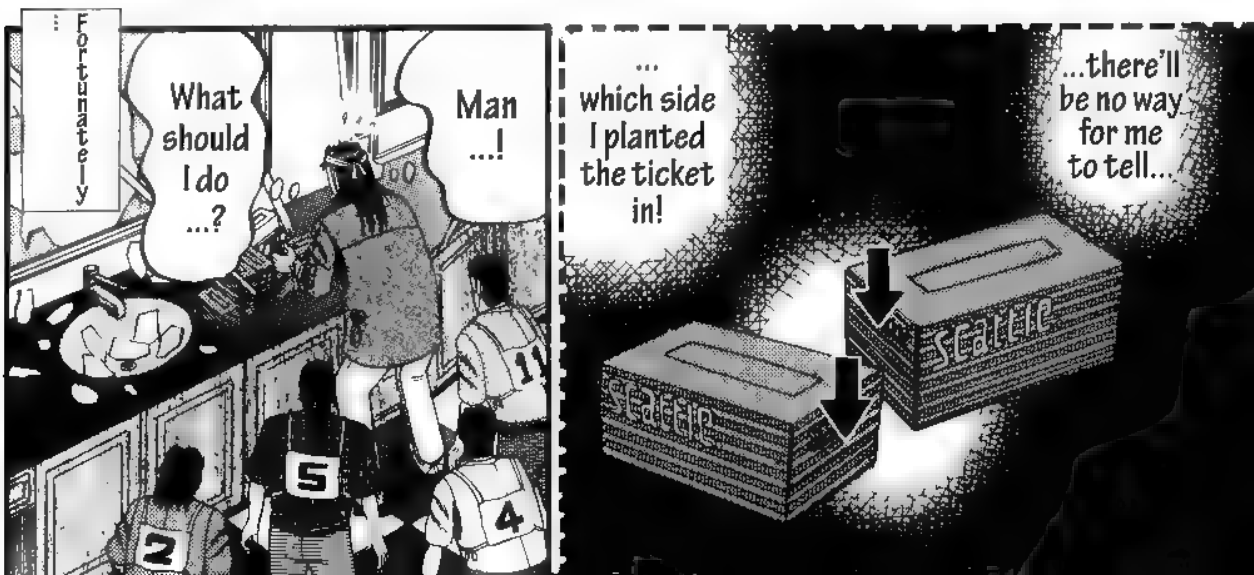
Come here ...!
...what about the other ticket?
But ...

PSST...
10
11
5
11
5
It'll be fine ...!
Will that work ...?
.....
Eh ...?

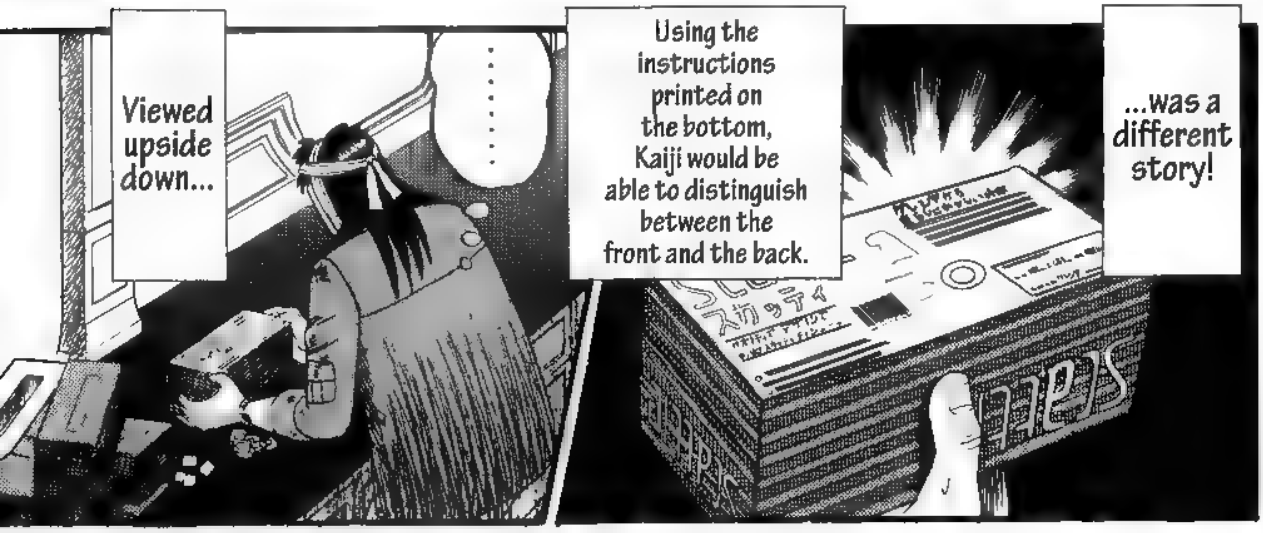
Bring me the boxes...!
... the boxes!
10
11
More importantly...
We can trick them ...!
THUD
All of them ...!
5
O-Okay ...!
It will look suspicious if we spend too much time in here...!
10
We need to hurry ...!


Hold on ...!


It's the same design on either side...
...front and back!
At this rate ...
...these tissue boxes look the same...
Now that I notice it...


Fortunately
What should I do ...?
Man ...!
... which side I planted the ticket in!
...there'll be no way for me to tell...

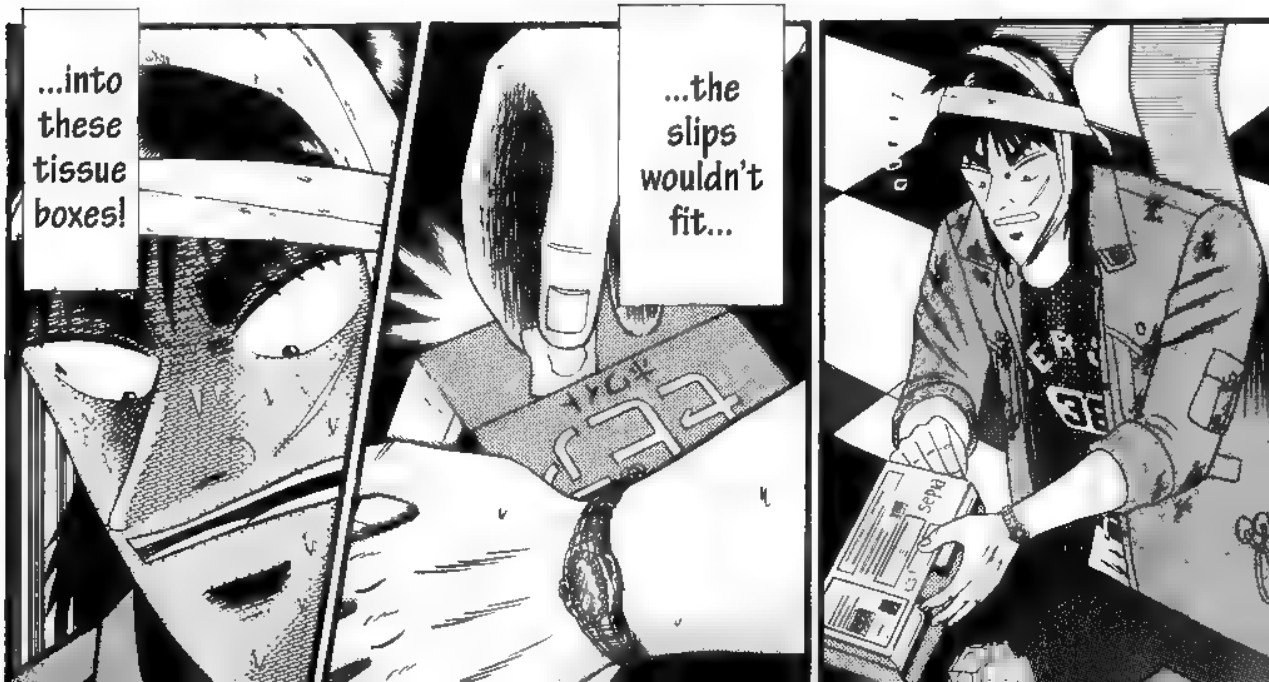
While there were no distinguishing marks on the front or back of the tissue box...
Scotch
...
but the bottom
...
...
the solution to that problem came immediately.


Viewed upside down...
.....
Using the instructions printed on the bottom, Kaiji would be able to distinguish between the front and the back.
...was a different story!

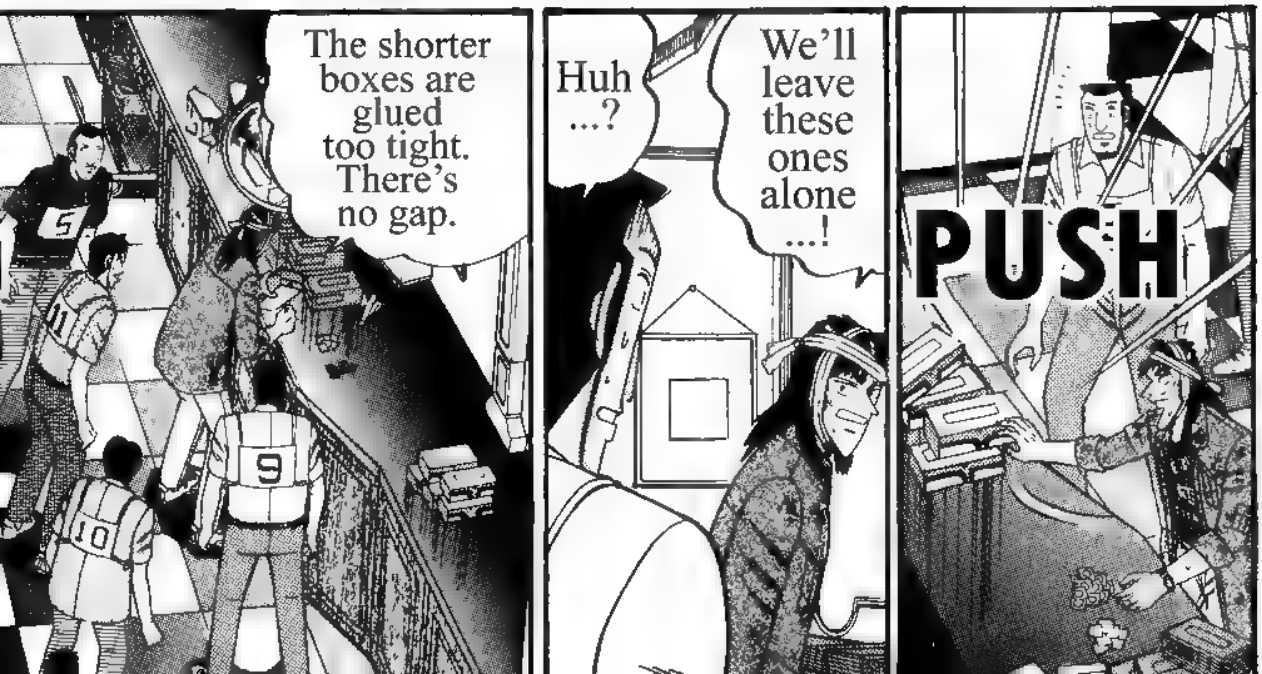
Kaiji-san ...!
...into what appeared to be the top end of the box.
...
Kaiji chose to slip the ticket
...

Okay ...!
We have to put tickets in all of them...!
There are more tissue boxes in here...
Bring them here...!

Unfortunately
however
THUD

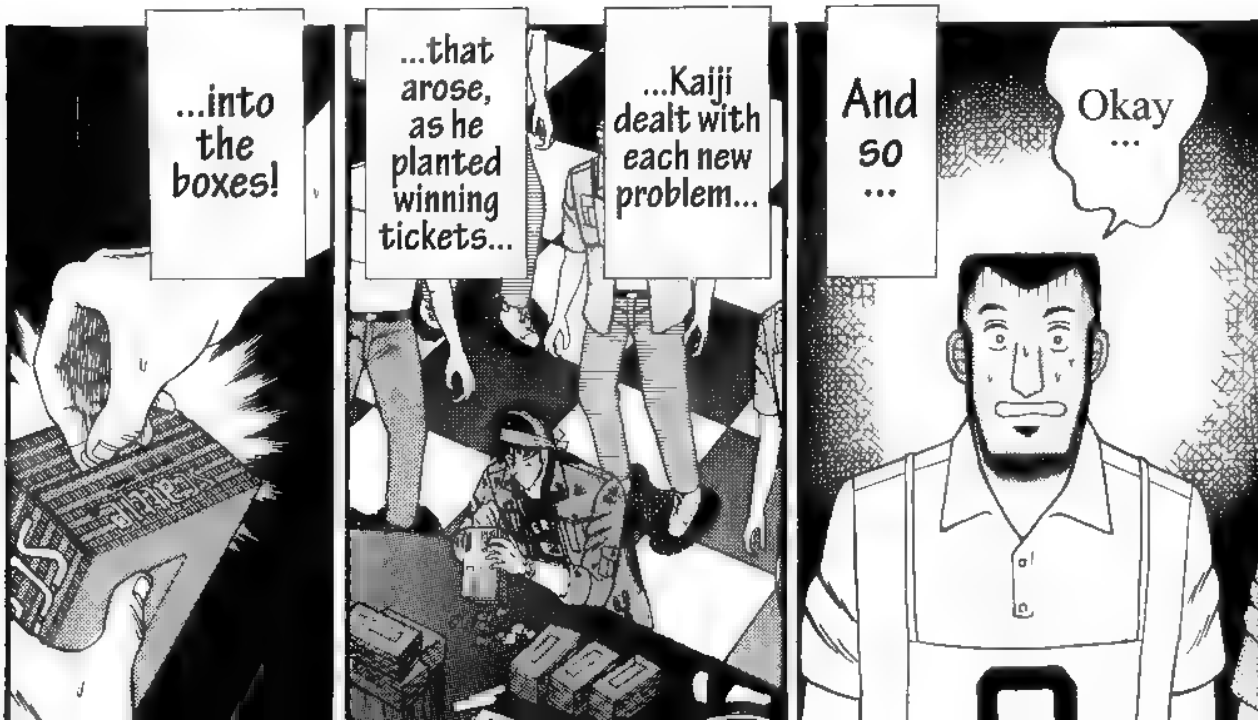

...into these tissue boxes!
...the slips wouldn't fit...

The shorter, compact tissue boxes...
It was true ...
There was no gap...!
What ...!?
... were a different brand ...
... and had no gap.
The tickets wouldn't fit...!


The shorter boxes are glued too tight. There's no gap.
Huh ...?
We'll leave these ones alone ...!
PUSH

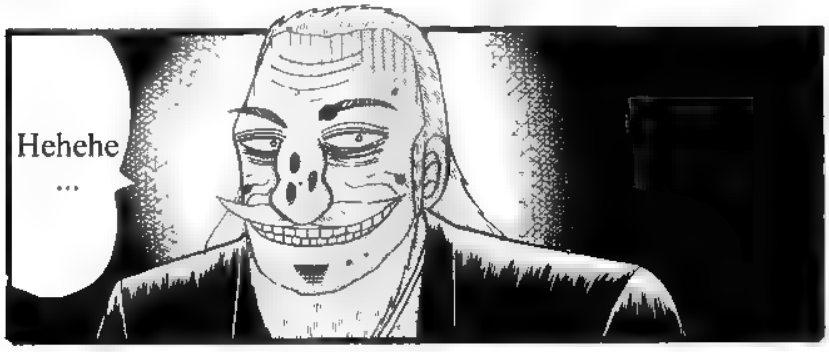
It's fine ...!
But...
Ahh...
Just leave them...!
... it might be too noticeable.
If we force the tickets in ...

...I can still lower my bet.
It's no big deal ...!
...and the lottery suddenly became an actual game of chance...
Even if they did...
...chances are they won't choose them.
Since those tissues are furthest from the door...


...into the boxes!
...that arose, as he planted winning tickets...
...Kaiji dealt with each new problem...
And so ...
Okay ...

Later...
... the leftover tickets and scraps of paper towels.
... he got rid of ...
Once he was finished ...
...in the stall!
...would be disposed of by whoever was left behind...
...the tickets left in the other tissue boxes...
... after the blacksuit had selected his box...
...his name still unknown.
Outside a monster awaited them...

The battle was joined...!


Hehehe
...

.....

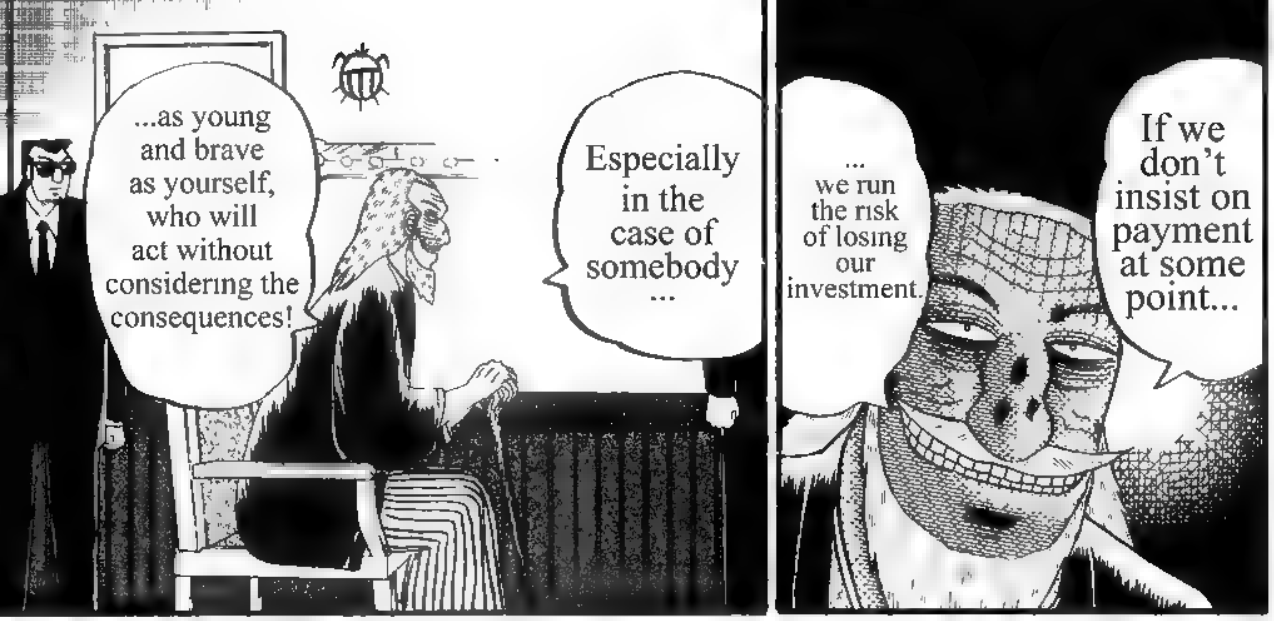
Are you feeling better now ...?
.....
1
3

... money can heal all wounds!
Of course ...
I was worried ...
Your injury was quite grave ...
Have you ever seen so much money...!?
At least, 20 million yen can...!
Now, I do hate to be uncouth. However...
...far outweighs the misery.
I'm sure the joy...
You must be thrilled ...!
Hehehe ...

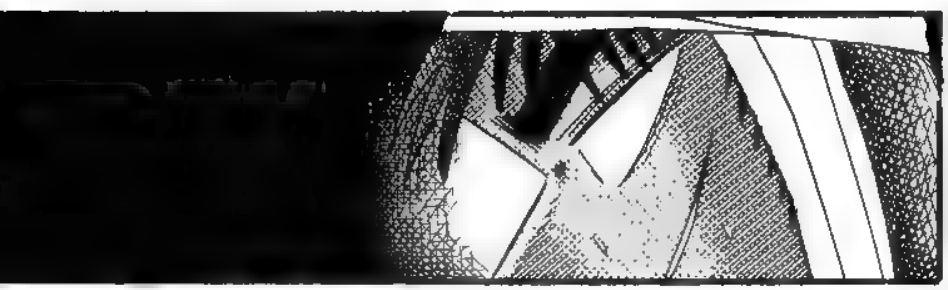
Kaiji-sama ...
Sir...!
Oi...!

The current balance is written here...
We respectfully ask for payment on your loan.

Hehehe ...
.....
As of 7/13:
Kaiji-sama
¥6,707,680
...including principle and interest.
.....


...as young and brave as yourself, who will act without considering the consequences!
Especially in the case of somebody ...
... we run the risk of losing our investment.
If we don't insist on payment at some point...

Hehehe ...

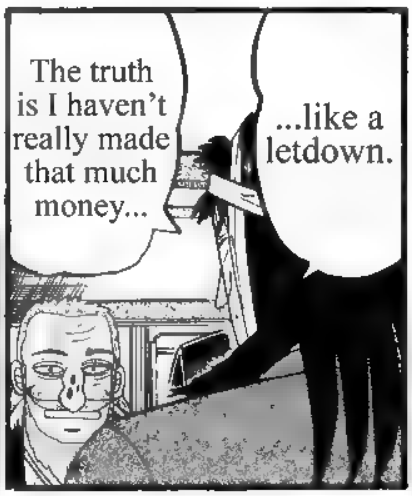


Hmm...?

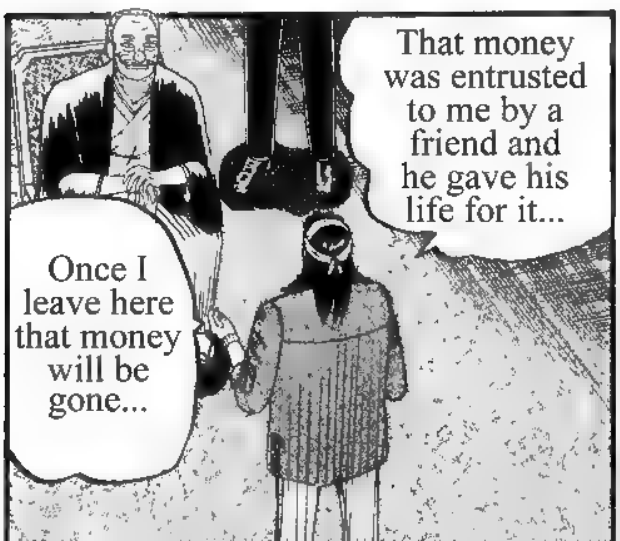
CRUSH
This doesn't feel right ...

.....

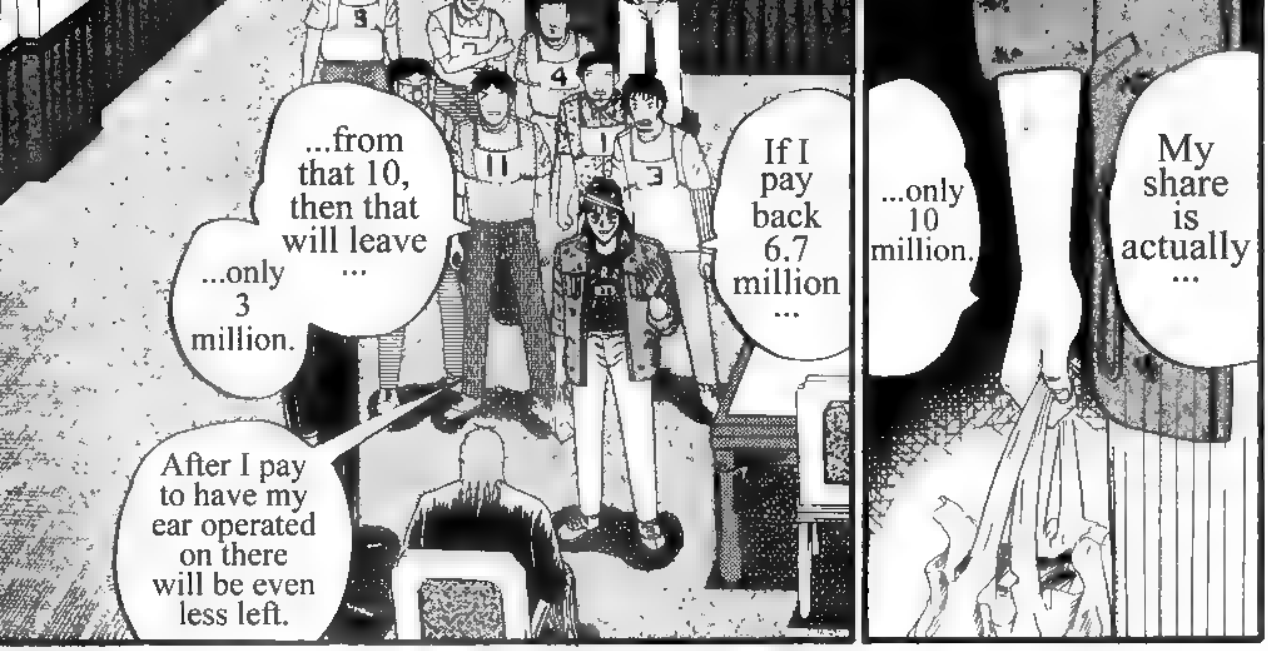
Even if I have won 20 million yen...
.....

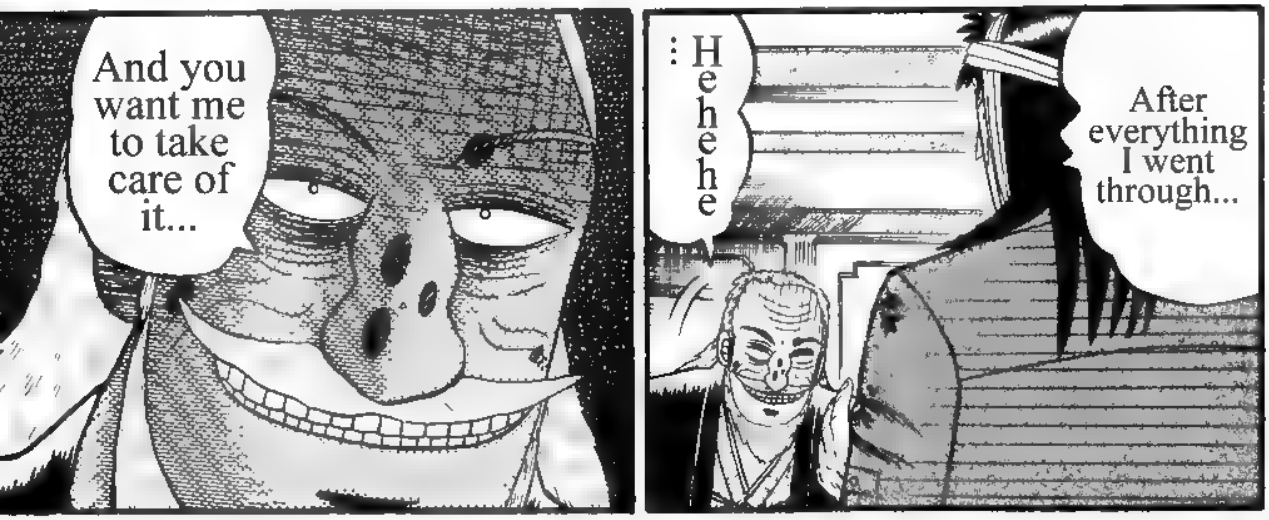

The truth is I haven't really made that much money...
...like a letdown.

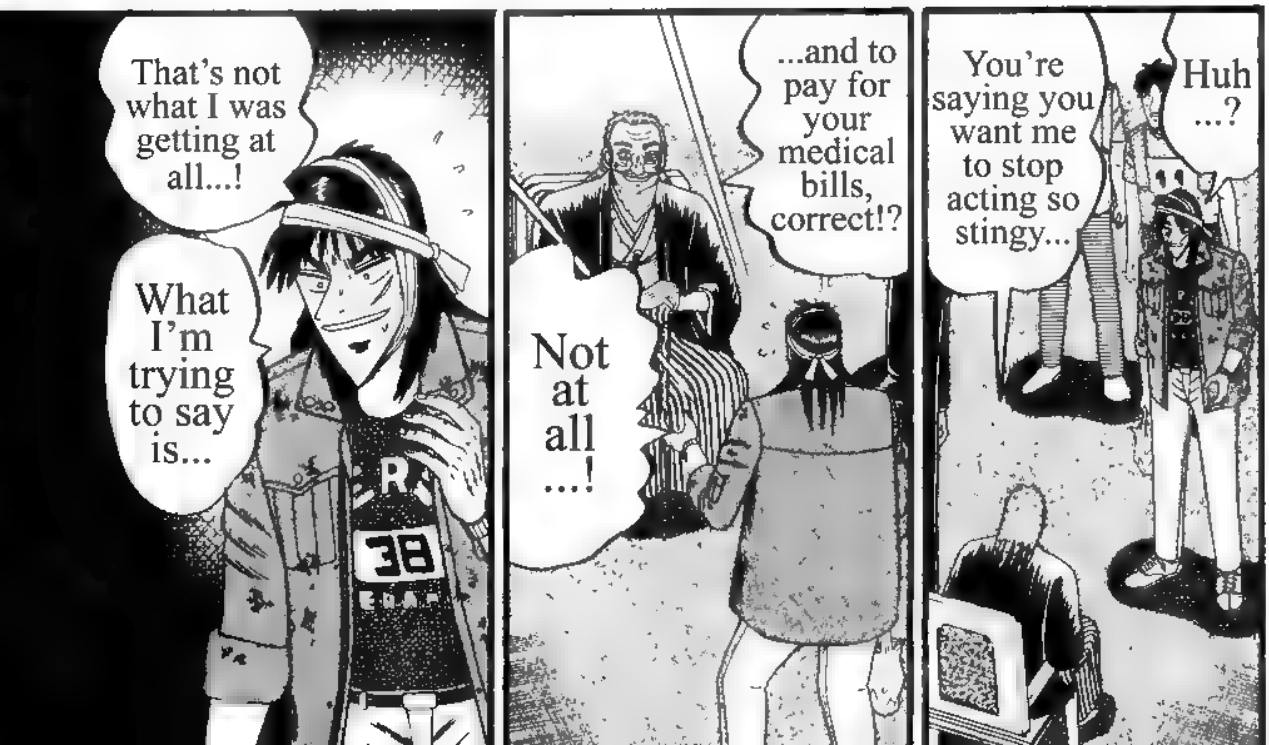
To be honest this feels...


That money was entrusted to me by a friend and he gave his life for it...
Once I leave here that money will be gone...

...was never my money to begin with.
...half of that, 10 million yen...


My share is actually ...
...only 10 million.
If I pay back 6.7 million ...
...from that 10, then that will leave ...
...only 3 million.
After I pay to have my ear operated on there will be even less left.


After everything I went through...
: Hehehe
And you want me to take care of it...


Huh ...?
You're saying you want me to stop acting so stingy...
...and to pay for your medical bills, correct!?
Not at all ...!
That's not what I was getting at all...!
What I'm trying to say is...

End of Chapter 142

# Chapter 143: Persuasion

ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
10
11
1
If it so pleased me, Kaiji-kun...
The boy just doesn't understand who he's dealing with.
Now, now, don't be so harsh.
Hmph ...
You watch your mouth when you speak to the director...!
We're not done yet...!
I can't go home like this ...!
You punk...!
Hehehe ...
My next match is with you, old man...
That's right ...!
A game ...?

...before the day was out!
...I could have a maggot like you transformed into fish food...

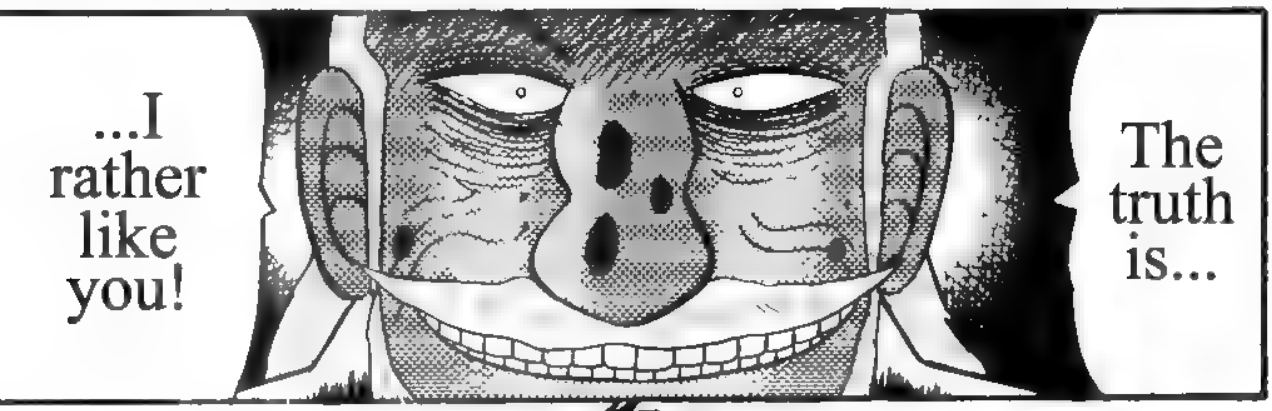
Hehehe ...

38

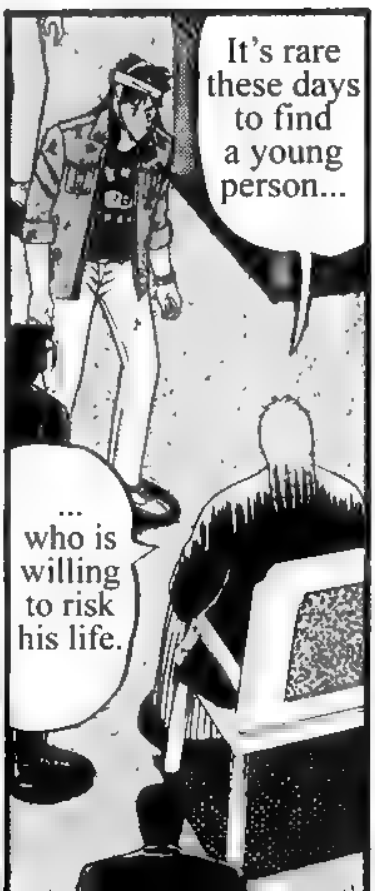
... I would naturally never do such a thing.

Of course ...
...seeing as I am a gentleman ...

Kaiji-kun
...
.....
Hehehehe...


...I rather like you!
The truth is...

...to wager with their lives without the pretension and vainglory.
One who is willing, when the adrenaline runs high ...


It's rare these days to find a young person...
... who is willing to risk his life.

However...

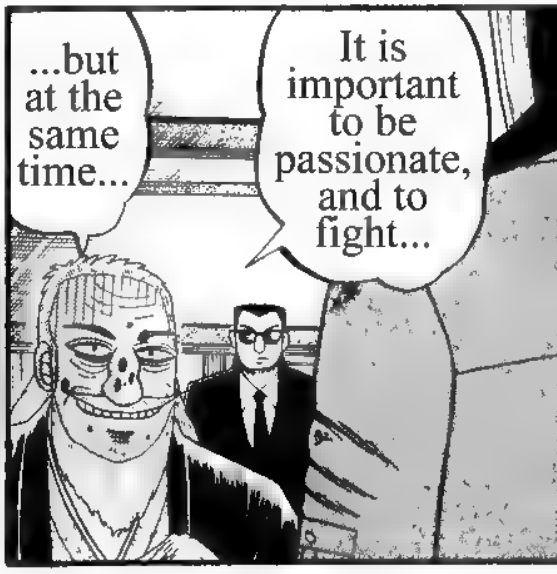
Truly marvelous ...!
One who is ready to thrust his hands into the blaze...

Kaiji-kun...
Once your hands are in the fire, the slightest mistake could leave you burned...!

...that is also a very dangerous personality to possess!
... on the other hand ...

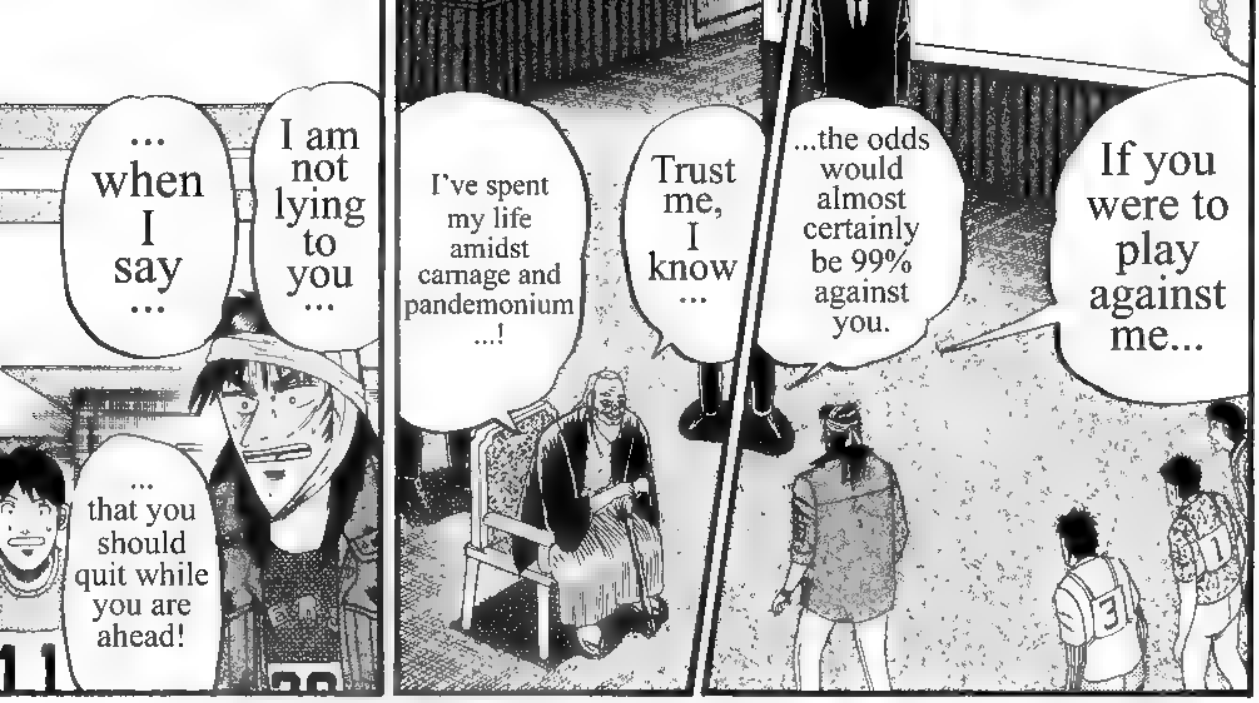
Don't you feel it...?

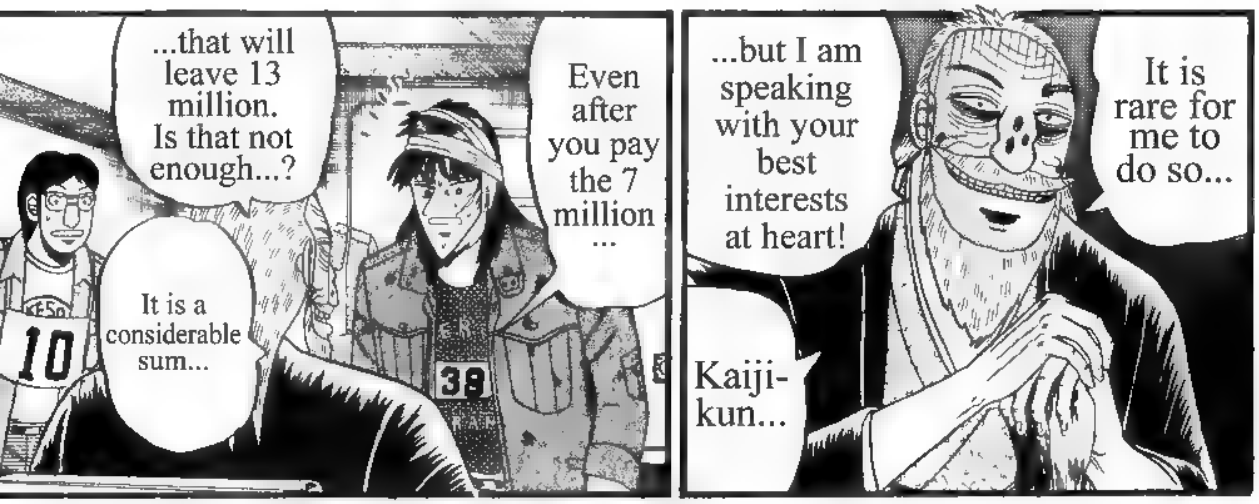
...it is also important to know when to fold.


...but at the same time...
It is important to be passionate, and to fight...

It is foolish to expect still more ...!
... Kaiji-kun!

...has surely reached its limit ...
Your luck for this evening...


If you were to play against me...
...the odds would almost certainly be 99% against you.
Trust me, I know ...
I've spent my life amidst carnage and pandemonium ...!
I am not lying to you ...
... when I say ...
... that you should quit while you are ahead!


It is rare for me to do so...
...but I am speaking with your best interests at heart!
Kaiji-kun...
Even after you pay the 7 million ...
...that will leave 13 million. Is that not enough...?
It is a considerable sum...

How much more can you ask for...!?
Hey...!
Were you even listening to me...!?
Hmm ...?
I told you, 10 million of that money doesn't even belong to me...!
I'm just holding onto it...!

You can simply break that promise ...!
Save your poppycock ...
All that leaves me...
I promised to turn it over...!
Hehehe...
It is only a spoken promise. You have no obligation to keep it ...!
That...
Keep your mouth shut and no one will be the wiser...
It is a worthless vow...!
Huh...?
Right now, you are still caught up in the heat of the moment, and are convinced that you will do the heroic thing and pay the money...
That is ridiculous!
In fact, I am quite certain you will not keep it...!
That's nonsense ...!
Hehehe

...in the ordinary fashion!
...ordinary feelings will replace heroism in short order, and you will betray your friend....
Once you return to your ordinary life...
Heehehe ...
I ain't gonna betray him...!
Not a chance ...!
This is human nature ...
Heehehe ...
Very well then, let's say that you won't ...
It makes no difference to me...
Ngh...!
Wait...!

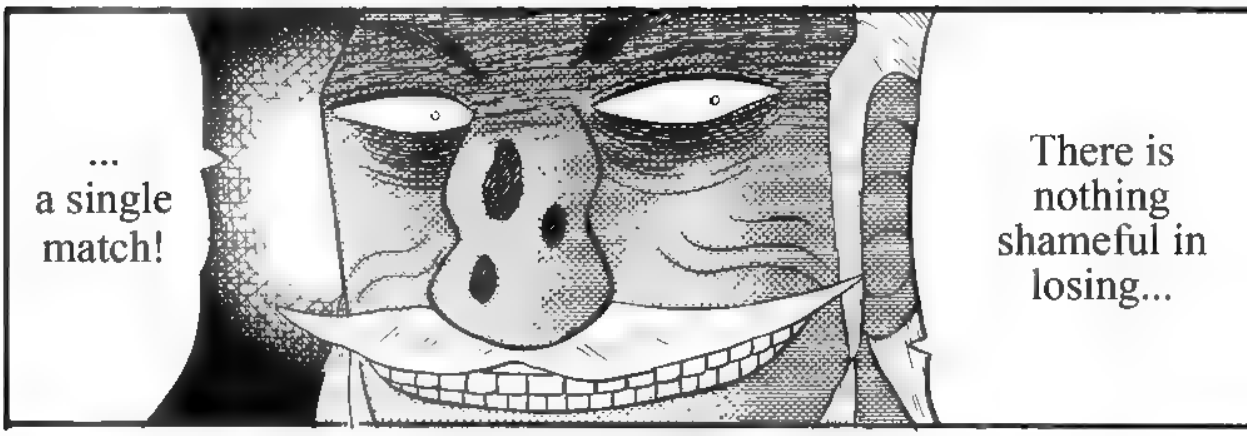
What...?

All this bunk is just meant to cover up...
Hmm ...?
You can't run away from me ...!
The truth is...
...the fact that you're running away!
...of facing the shame!
You're just scared ...
... you're just afraid of losing to me!

ざわ・・・
Hah ...!
Aren't you ...!?
?.....
Heehehe ...
What a ridiculous thing to say...
...but on a single match...
If we were to play a series of matches perhaps that would be a different story...
Why should I be embarrassed to lose to you....?
Huh...?

...it is almost certain that I would win...
...if we were to play...
... but even were I to lose ...
As things stand ...
... there is no guarantee of success.
Clearly you cannot win them all.
To be strong is a relative term...!
Consider ...!
...that is no particular reason to be ashamed!
It is very possible that the amateur might best the pro in a single hole...!
... plays against an amateur, will he win every single hole?
If, for instance, a pro golfer ...
Even in the world of professional sports this is true...!

But to call it a matter of shame ...
... for him to lose that single hole ...
... is a breed of narrow-mindedness common ...
... to lowly paupers such as yourselves!


There is nothing shameful in losing...
... a single match!

Success in life is a relative thing...
As long as you win relatively often, that is good enough ...!
38
Fork-tongued slime ...!

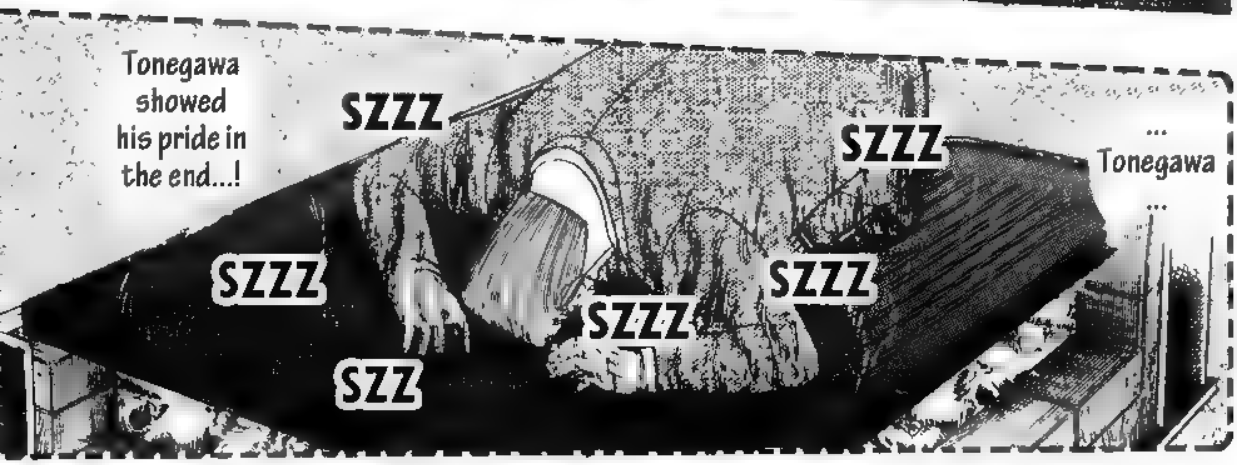
... when you forced him ...
And you had plenty to say about shame and apology ...
SZZZ
SZZZZ
SZZ
... to forgive his single loss.
You weren't so quick ...
Tonegawa's punishment?
What about ...


SZZZ
SZZ
... to do your terrible penance!
SMOLDER
SMOLDER
SZZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZZ

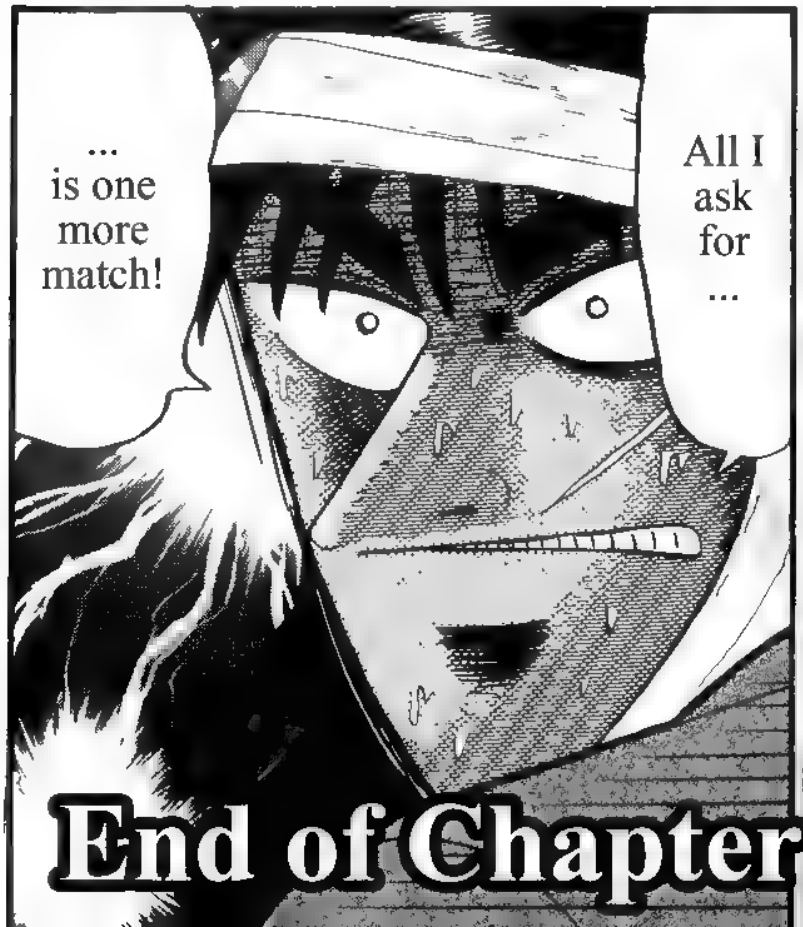
... come down hard on his subordinates ...
He can ...
... and even torture them for their mistakes ...
He's trying to slither out of the situation ...
.....

...is no great shame!
...and yaps about how losing...
...
he changes his tune pretty quick
...
...
but when it's his turn...
That creep ...!
Compared to someone like him...
Compared ...
How can he be so black-hearted ...!?

...
and even
...
My friends who died...
...they were worth so much more!


Tonegawa showed his pride in the end...!
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZZ
SZZ
...
Tonegawa
...

If you'll excuse me...
I know this was a party, but I have stayed up far too late for one night...
...
if we've had enough of this
...
Now then
...
Yawwwnn
...

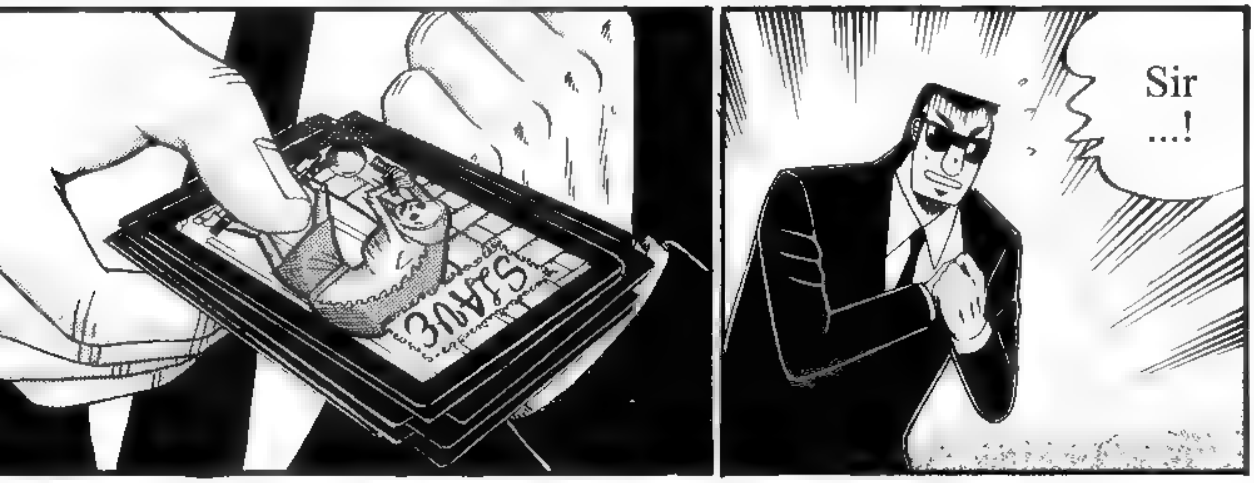


End of Chapter 143

# Chapter 144: Synthesis

How dare you ...!
さわ
Just one more ...
Can't you see that the director is tired...!?
Give me one more match ...!
.....
Stay out of this ...!

Oi ...!
Have it your way ...!
Fine then ...!


Sir ...!

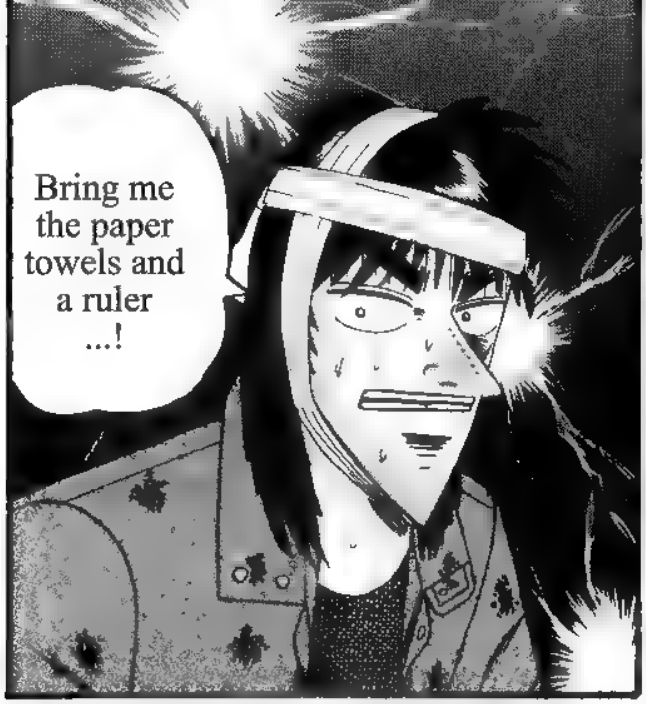
No more Emperor ...
I've had enough of that ...!
Hmm ...?
No ...!

I can't trust you...!
...I don't want to play any game that you guys have got prepared!
In fact...
... you haven't done anything ...
Even if ...
How dare you ...!
There's no telling what you've got waiting up your sleeve ...!
Hehehe ...
You can't tell me I don't have good cause to be suspicious ...!
... that you may have!
...I won't be able to shake the doubt...
Don't you see...!?

That is a problem ...
I see ...
I see ...
Kaiji-kun ...
But ...
Hmm ...?
Whatever, then, are we supposed to do...?
That leaves us in quite the predicament ...
Let me think...
Hold on a sec ...!
.....
ERS

11
4

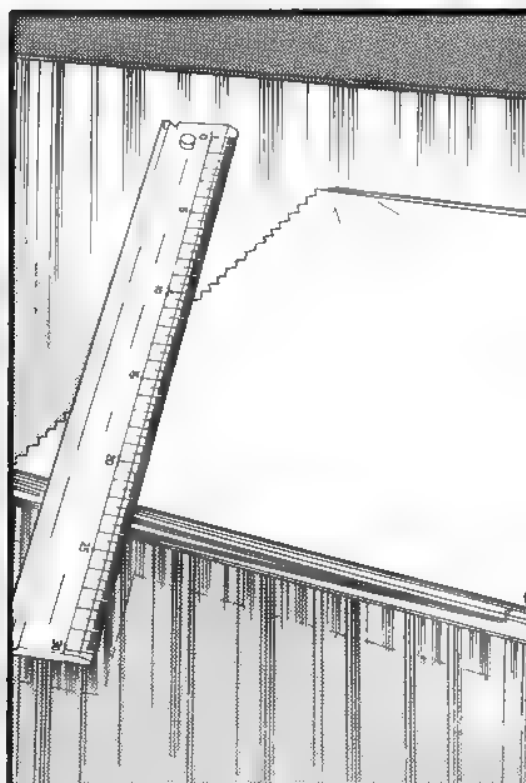
Paper towels ...
38
What else ...?
.....
Earlier, Tonegawa was using paper towels ...
Eh ...?
... to wipe my blood off the table!


Bring me the paper towels and a ruler ...!

A ruler ...

どか
?.....

And so ...



... Kaiji began his work.

ざわ..
.....
ざわ..

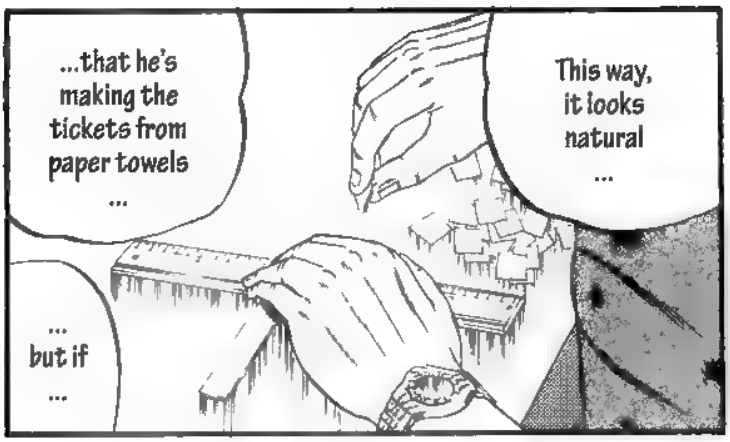
He's good ...!

ざわ..
10
11
RIP

Even while he talks them into another match ...
... he's avoiding setting the amount of his bet.
After all ...

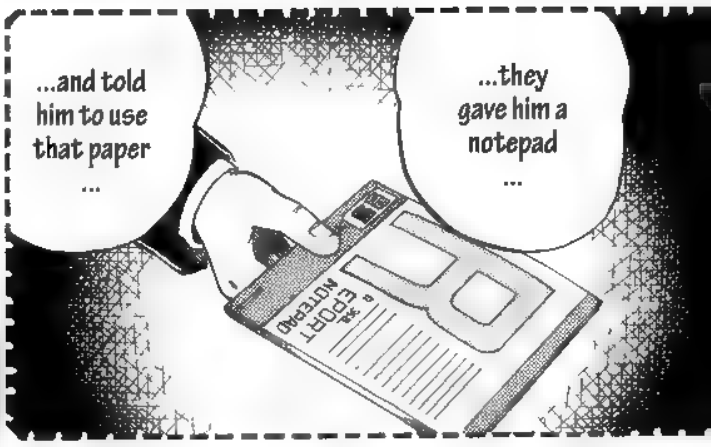
... is good!
The way he's playing this ...

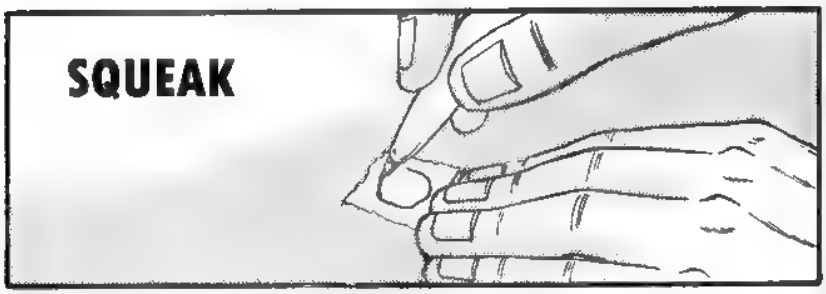
...instead of talking about bets he's staying absorbed in making the tickets.
And that's not ...
...there's still no guarantee that the blacksuit...
... will bring one of the tissue boxes with a ticket inside.
Which is why ...
... the only clever thing he's doing!
If he had announced that they were playing a lottery first ...
... and then started making the tickets ...
... it's possible ...
He hasn't told them what they're doing, but has gone straight ahead and started making tickets.
He's got it down ...
... perfect!

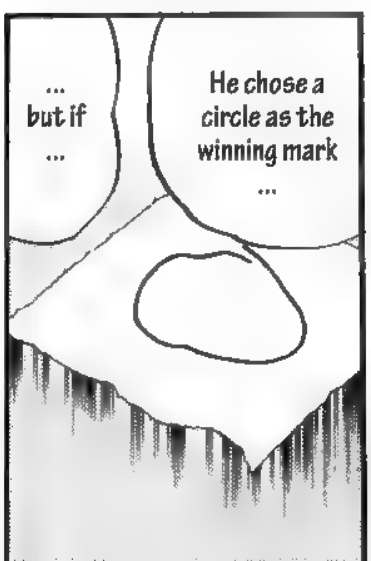

...that he's making the tickets from paper towels ...
This way, it looks natural ...
... but if ...

... have run into trouble instead!
... that he might ...

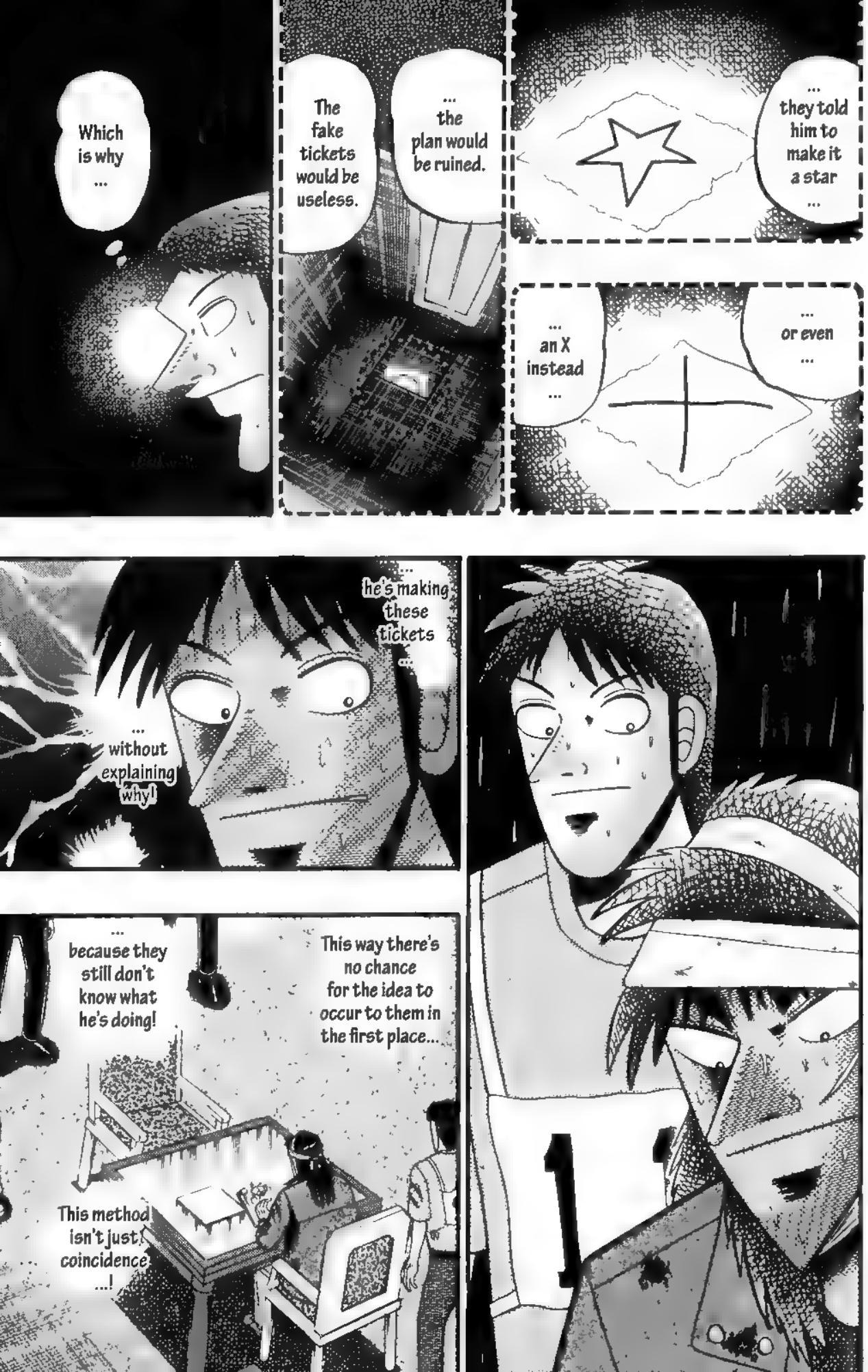
... that he could do.
...then there would be nothing ...
Also ...


...and told him to use that paper ...
...they gave him a notepad ...
EPOCH NOTEPAD


SQUEAK


... but if ...
He chose a circle as the winning mark ...

... there's the mark ...


Which is why ...
The fake tickets would be useless.
... the plan would be ruined.
... they told him to make it a star ...
... or even ...
... an X instead ...
... he's making these tickets ...
... without explaining why!
This way there's no chance for the idea to occur to them in the first place...
... because they still don't know what he's doing!
This method isn't just coincidence ...!

The fight's already begun ...!
Man ...!
TOSS
Kaiji-san's strategy ...!
It's strategy ...!
.....
?.....
... is yet another clever trick!
... he's redrawing the mark ...
The way ...
.....

When Kaiji-san pulls his winning ticket from the side of the tissue box...
... naturally, the real ticket will still be left inside.
Redrawing the tickets ...
... is part of his plan ...

It's like he told us, earlier, in the bathroom ...!
... to cover his tracks.
Do you understand ...?

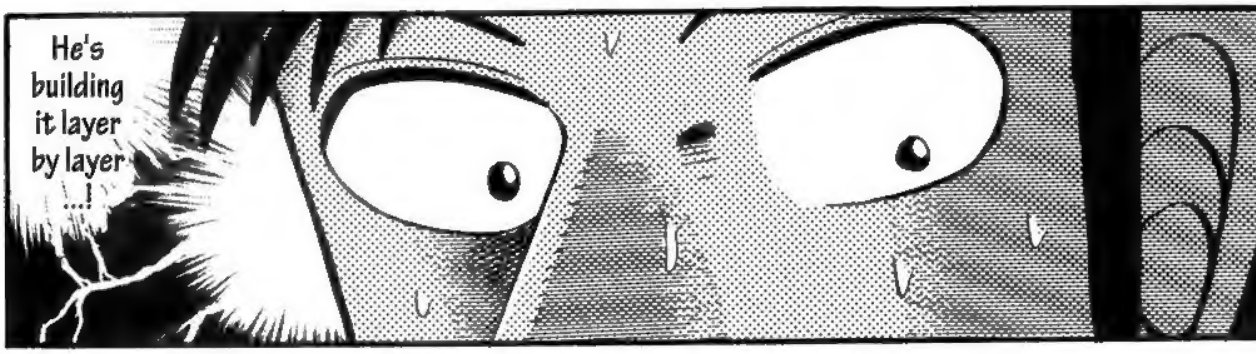
In the excitement it won't matter if I crush the box a little either.
...hoist the box over my head, and give it a big shake!
... I'll make a big show of getting excited ...
Once I've pulled the winning ticket ...
Naturally, the tickets should fly ...

...if they were to find a winning ticket they might suspect ...
... that it wasn't the one I had pulled.
... even amidst all the confusion ...
Of course ...
... all over the room.

... is draw extra tickets in advance ...
All I need to do ...
But we can trick them ...!
.....

... and scatter them across the floor!

Huh ...?
In other words, all I need to do is mess up a ticket or two...
...and then throw them away on the floor.
It would look bad if they found one ticket ...
... which wasn't supposed to be there.
But if they found four tickets when there should only be three ....
... they should hardly notice!
Don't you agree ...?
Do you think they'll really remember clearly ...
...how many tickets I messed up at the beginning!?
Even ...
... if they think they do ...
...they could easily be mistaken on the difference between...
... two tickets or three!
Even ...
... if they make accusations, they wouldn't ...
... be able to prove them!
So we can trick them ...!



End of Chapter 144

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